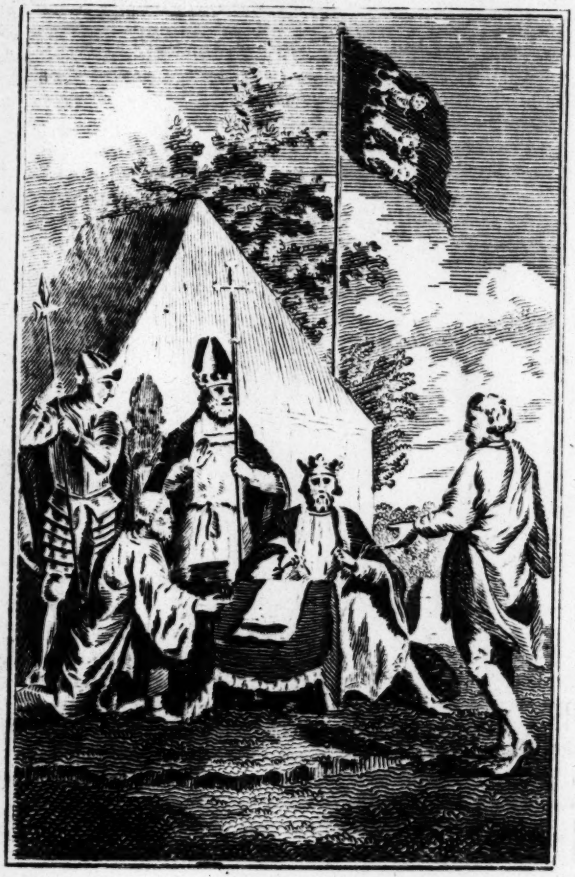
Frontispiece.



King John signing Magna Charta
that Bulwark of English Liberty.

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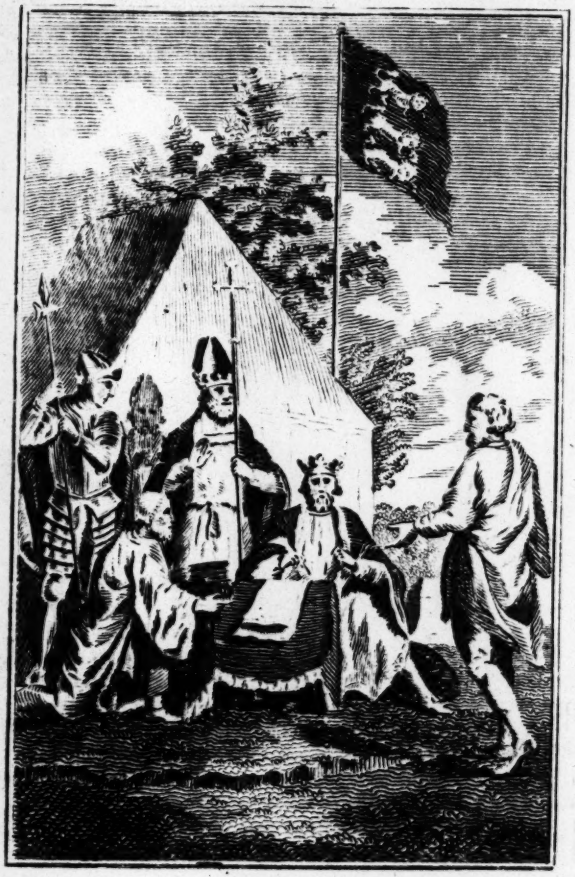


King John signing Magna Charta
that Bulwark of English Liberty.

A

NEW HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIOD, to the PRESENT TIME.

ON A PLAN RECOMMENDED BY

The EARL of CHESTERFIELD.

Embellished with COPPER PLATES.

By the Reverend Mr. COOPER.

By the Help of History, a young Man may, in some Measure, acquire the Experience of Old Age.

CHESTERFIELD

THE TENTH EDITION,

WITH ADDITIONS.

LONDON:

Printed for E. NEWBERY, the Corner of St. Paul's Church-yard.—1798.

PREFACE.

HISTORY, of all other ſtudies, is the moſt neceſſary for a man who is to live in the world. It preſents us with a review of all thoſe mighty events which have influenced the fate of nations; and communicates to our enquiry the whole progreſs of improvement, the whole circle of knowledge and experience. In the delightful ſtudy of hiſtory, we become acquainted with the characters, and even the perſons of thoſe heroes, who have triumphed over barbarity; of thoſe legiſlators, who have ſtrengthened the bands of ſociety; and of thoſe philoſophers, who have inſtructed, poliſhed, and reformed mankind.

In reading the tranſactions of others, we are apprized of our own duty; and the more we are informed of what is paſt, we ſhall be the better enabled to conduct ourſelves for the future.

"The teſtimonies of ancient hiſ-
"tory," ſays Lord Cheſterfield, "are
"weaker than thoſe of modern, as all
"teſtimony grows weaker and weaker,
"as it is more and more remote from
"us; but modern hiſtory, particular-
"ly that of the three laſt centuries,
"ſhould be applied to with the great-
"eſt attention and exactneſs; there
"the probability of coming to the
"truth is much greater, the teſtimo-
"nies being more recent."

Such is the opinion of the Earl of Cheſterfield on the ſubject of hiſtory; and, fully convinced of the juſtneſs and propriety of his obſervations, I have followed his plan, as far as was conſiſtent with the nature of this performance. I have, in the early periods of Engliſh hiſtory, been as conciſe as poſſible; but, in the modern part, I have been as copious and extenſive as the limits which I have preſcribed myſelf would allow.

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION.

THE ancient ſtate of England, with reſpect to its conſtitution, was originally a monarchy, under the primitive Britons; afterwards a province in ſubjection to the Romans; then an heptarchical government under the Saxons; then a kingdom ſubordinate to the Danes; next after them, under the power and dominion of the Normans; but at preſent a monarchy again.

The whole iſland was at firſt called *Albion*, *Alpion*, becauſe the term *Alp* ſignifies a hill. It was likewiſe called *Olbion*, a Greek word for happy, becauſe the ancient Britons lived for a long time in eaſe and affluence, in the quiet poſſeſſion of their hills, till the wild ambition of Cæſar interrupted their flouriſhing ſtate of peace and tranquillity.

It was afterwards named *Brithtania*, from *Brith*, ſignifying painted in the Britiſh lan-

guage, and the Greek term *Tania*, or country, which the Romans ſoftened into *Britannia*.

Britain was but very little known to the reſt of the world before the time of the Romans. The coaſts oppoſite Gaul were frequented by merchants who traded thither for ſuch commodities as the natives were able to produce. Theſe, it is thought, after a time, took poſſeſſion of all the maritime places where they had at firſt been permitted to reſide. There, finding the country fertile, and commodiouſly ſituated for trade, they ſettled upon the ſea-ſide, and introduced the practice of agriculture. But it was very different with the inland inhabitants of the country, who conſidered themſelves as the lawful poſſeſſors of the ſoil. Theſe avoided all correſpondence with the new comers, whom they deemed intruders upon their property.

The inland inhabitants are repreſented as extremely numerous, living in cottages thatched with ſtraw, and feeding large herds of cattle. They ſubſiſted chiefly upon milk, and fleſh procured by the chace. What clothes they wore to cover any part of their bodies, were uſually the ſkins of beaſts; but much of their bodies, as the arms, legs, and thighs, was left naked, and thoſe parts were painted

painted blue. Their hair, which was generally yellow, flowed down upon their backs and ſhoulders. They conſtantly ſhaved their faces, except their upper lip, where they ſuffered the hair to grow to an enormous length. The dreſs of ſavage nations is every where almoſt the ſame, being calculated rather to inſpire terror than to excite love or reſpect.

As to their government, it conſiſted of ſeveral ſmall principalities, each under its reſpective leader. And this ſeems to be the earlieſt mode of dominion with which mankind are acquainted, and deduced from the natural privileges of paternal authority. Upon great or uncommon dangers, a commander in chief was choſen by conſent, in a general aſſembly; and to him was committed the conduct of the general intereſt, the power of making peace, or leading to war.

Their forces conſiſted chiefly of foot; and yet they could bring a conſiderable number of horſe into the field upon extraordinary occaſions. They likewiſe uſed chariots in battle, which, with ſhort ſcythes faſtened to the ends of the axle-trees, inflicted terrible wounds, ſpreading terror and devaſtation whereſoever they drove. Nor

while

while the chariots were thus deſtroying, were the warriors who conducted them unemployed. Theſe darted their javelins againſt the enemy, ran along the beam, leapt on the ground, reſumed their ſeat, ſtopt, or turned their horſes at full ſpeed, and ſometimes cunningly retreated, to draw the enemy into confuſion.

The religion of the Britons was one of the moſt conſiderable parts of their government; and the Druids, who were the guardians of it, poſſeſſed great authority among them. No ſpecies of ſuperſtition was ever more terrible than theirs; beſides the ſevere penalties which they were permitted to inflict in this world, they inculcated the doctrine of tranſmigration of ſouls, and thus extended their authority as far as the fears of their votaries. They ſacrificed human victims, which they burned in large wicker idols, made ſo capacious as to contain a multitude of perſons at once, who were thus conſumed together. To theſe rites, tending to impreſs ignorance with awe, they added the auſterity of their manners, and the ſimplicity of their lives. They lived in woods, caves, and hollow trees; their food was acorns and berries, and their drink water. By theſe arts they were

were not only reſpected, but almoſt adored, by the people.

It may be eaſily ſuppoſed, that the manners of the inhabitants took a tincture from the diſcipline of their teachers. Their lives were ſimple, but they were marked with cruelty and ferocity; their courage was great, but neither dignified by mercy nor perſeverance.

The Britains had long remained in this rude, but independant ſtate, when Cæſar, having over-run Gaul with his victories, and willing ſtill farther to extend his fame, determined upon the conqueſt of a country that ſeemed to promiſe an eaſy triumph. When the troops deſtined for the expedition were embarked, he ſet ſail for Britain about midnight, and the next morning arrived on the coaſt near Dover, where he ſaw the rocks and cliffs covered with armed men to oppoſe his landing.

The Britains had choſen Caſſivelaunus for their commander in chief: but the petty princes under his command, either deſiring his ſtation, or ſuſpecting his fidelity, threw off their allegiance. Some of them fled, with their forces, into the internal parts of the kingdom, others ſubmitted to Cæſar;

till

till at length Caſſivelaunus himſelf, weakened by ſo many deſertions, reſolved upon making what terms he was able, while he yet had power to keep the field. The conditions offered by Cæſar, and accepted by him, were, that he ſhould ſend to the continent double the number of hoſtages at firſt demanded, and that he ſhould acknowledge ſubjection to the Romans. Cæſar, however, was obliged to return once more to compel the Britons to complete their ſtipulated treaty.

After the Romans had been in poſſeſſion of this iſland for near four hundred years, they left it to its ancient inhabitants again; but as they were at that time moſt ſhamefully degenerated from their native courage and intrepidity, they were ſoon after invaded by the Scots and Picts; and being greatly intimidated at the thoughts of their approach, they applied to the Saxons (through the plauſible inſinuations of their unambitious monarch Vortigern) for their aſſiſtance, and thereby brought on their total ruin and deſtruction, and the diviſion of their country into the following heptarchy, viz. the kingdom of Kent; the kingdom of the South Saxons; the

kingdom

kingdom of the Weſt Saxons; the kingdom of the Eaſt Saxons; the kingdom of Northumberland; the kingdom of the Eaſt Angles; and the kingdom of the Mercians.

In proceſs of time, Britannia aſſumed the name of Angle-land, or England. The 1ſt king thereof was Egbert the Great; the 2d, Ethelwolf, his only ſurviving ſon; the 3d, Ethelbald; the 4th, Ethelbert; the 5th, Ethelred I. the 6th, Alfred the Great; the 7th, Edward the Elder; the 8th, Athelſtan; the 9th, Edmund I. the 10th, Edred; the 11th, Edwy, or Edwin; the 12th, Edgar the Pacific; the 13th, Edward II. the 14th, Ethelred II. the 15th, Edmund; ſurnamed Ironſide; the 16th, Canute the Great; the 17th, Harold I. ſurnamed Harefoot; the 18th, Hardicanute; the 19th, Edward, ſurnamed the Confeſſor; and the 20th, Harold, the ſecond ſon of Godwin, Earl of Kent. His pretenſions were, however, oppoſed by William duke of Normandy, who inſiſted that the crown belonged of right to him, it being bequeathed to him by Edward the Confeſſor. In the year 1066, he made a deſcent on the coaſt of Suſſex, with a numerous army; and ſoon after came to an engagement with

with Harold, at Haſtings, who was killed upon the ſpot, and his army entirely defeated; as will be more particularly related in the account of the reign of William the Conqueror.

THE

THE

NEW HISTORY

OF

ENGLAND.

WILLIAM I.

Surnamed the CONQUEROR.

WILLIAM I. king of England, and duke of Normandy, was one of the greateſt generals of the eleventh century. He was born at Falaiſe, and was the natural ſon of Robert duke of Normandy, by Arlotte, a furrier's daughter. After the death of Robert, which happened in 1035, William, who was his only ſon, ſucceeded him. His relations, however, diſputed the ſucceſſion, but being favoured by Henry I. king of France, he triumphed over them, defeated count d'Arques, took Maine, and carried the war into Anjou. Some time after, he paid a viſit to Edward the Confeſſor, who

treated him with great reſpect, and took a tour with him through England.

Edward the Confeſſor dying without iſſue in 1065, appointed him his heir: on which William ſent to demand the crown; and ſoon after landed at Pevenſy in Suſſex, with a powerful army, and thence proceeding to Haſtings, built a ſtrong fort. Harold had placed himſelf on the throne, and now marched to oppoſe him; on which a bloody battle enſued, the 14th of October, 1066, in which William obtained a complete victory, though he had three horſes killed under him, and loſt a great number of his troops.

On the ſide of the Engliſh, Harold was ſlain with many of the nobility, and about 60,000 ſoldiers, The Normans had, beſides, the advantage of long bows, of the uſe of which the Engliſh were then ignorant: but, in ſpite of theſe, the Engliſh with their battle axes, kept ſo cloſe together, that they remained invincible, till the Normans pretending to fly, brought them into diſorder. Notwithſtanding this victory, William could have little hopes of gaining the throne by right of conqueſt; he therefore gave out, that he came to revenge the death of prince Alfred, brother to king Edward; to reſtore Robert archbiſhop of Canterbury to his ſee; and to obtain the crown as his right, on account of its being bequeathed to him by Edward the Confeſſor. He cannot, therefore,

fore, be properly ſaid to have obtained the crown by conqueſt, ſince theſe motives engaged many of the Engliſh in his favour.

William's paſſions were violent, but he had much wiſdom, and an equal ſhare of diſſimulation. He marched directly to London; but on the way was met by a large body of Kentiſh men; each with a bough, or branch of a tree in his hand. This army was headed by Stigand, the archbiſhop, who made a ſpeech to the Conqueror, in which he boldly demanded the preſervation of their liberties; and let him know, that they were reſolved rather to die than to part with their laws, and live in bondage.

William thought proper to grant their demands; he agreed to govern them by the laws of Edward the Confeſſor, and to ſuffer them to retain their ancient cuſtoms. Upon his coronation at Weſtminſter, he was ſworn to govern by the laws of the realm; and though he afterwards introduced ſome new forms, he preſerved trials by juries, and the borough law.

The firſt act of ſovereignty he exerciſed, after his coronation, was the ſeizure of Harold's treaſure, which he found amaſſed at Wincheſter. Part of this he diſtributed among the principal officers of his army; part was given to the churches and monaſteries; and a large ſhare ſent to the Pope.

He began his reign with ſuch moderation

as afforded a happy omen to his ſubjects. He exhorted his principal officers to treat the Engliſh with humanity, and reſpect them as brothers. He iſſued orders throughout his army, forbidding his ſoldiers to attempt the chaſtity of the women, or commit the leaſt outrage againſt the inhabitants, under the ſevereſt penalties. This ſpecimen of his equity had a wonderful effect upon the Engliſh, who vied with each other in teſtifying their loyalty and eſteem, by preſenting him with large ſums of money, which helped him to defray the expence of the conqueſt; nor could they blame his conduct when he divided among his followers the lands of all the noblemen who had appeared in arms againſt him, as well thoſe that fell, as thoſe that ſurvived the battle.

He inſtituted the courts of Chancery and Exchequer; but at the ſame time diſarmed his Engliſh ſubjects, and forbade their having any light in their houſes after 8 o'clock at night, when a bell was rung, called *Curfew* or *Coverfire*, at the ſound of which all were obliged to put out their fires and candles. He conquered ſeveral powers who invaded England, obliged the Scots to preſerve the peace they had broken, compelled the Welch to pay him tribute, refuſed to pay homage to the Pope, built the tower of London, and cauſed all public acts to be made in the Norman tongue. He

oppreſſed

oppreſſed the people by taxes, and cauſed all England to be ſurveyed and rated, and had the men numbered, in a work called Doomſday-book, which is ſtill extant.

He reſolved to chaſtiſe the French who invaded Normandy, and after that to reduce his ſon Robert; but Robert no ſooner found that he was engaged with his father, than he dutifully ſubmitted to him, notwithſtanding his being victorious. Some time after, William declared war againſt Phillip I. king of France, laid waſte the country, burnt Mantes, and ravaged it with ſword and fire to the gates of Paris; but approaching too near the flames of Mantes, the heat of the fire, together with the warmth of the ſeaſon, threw him into a fever, which being increaſed by a fall from his horſe in his return to Roan, he died in a village near that city, the 9th of September, 1087, in the 64th year of his age, after a reign of fifty-two years in Normandy, and twenty-one in England. He was interred at Caen in Normandy.

William was a prince of great courage, capacity, and ambition; he was politic, cruel, vindictive, and rapacious; ſtern and haughty in his deportment; reſerved and jealous in his diſpoſition. He was fond of glory, and though parſimonious in domeſtic affairs, delighted in pomp and oſtentation. His aſpect was nobly ſevere and

imperious, his ſtature tall and portly, his conſtitution robuſt, and his ſtrength ſo great that hardly a man of that age could bend his bow, or handle his arms.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1068. The Engliſh were required to put out their fire and candle at eight in the evening on the ringing of the curfew bell; and alſo to deliver up their arms.

1072. Surnames were firſt uſed in England; and common ſwearing firſt introduced.

1076. A great Earthquake in England, and a froſt from the beginning of November to the April following.

1079. The courts of Exchequer and Chancery, the four terms of law, ſheriffs, and juſtices of the peace, ordained. Sealing of writs was alſo introduced in this reign.

WILLIAM II.

WILLIAM II. ſurnamed *Rufus*, or *Red*, from the colour of his hair, and his florid complexion, was the ſecond ſurviving ſon of William the Conqueror, and ſucceeded his father the 27th of September, 1087. He was then thirty years

years of age; and at the ſame time Robert, his elder brother, ſucceeded, by his father's will, to the duchy of Normandy; but he reſolved to aſſert his right of primogeniture to the crown of England; and ſeveral of the Norman nobility eſpouſed his cauſe. William, however, defeated a body of his troops in Kent, and ſoon after prevailed on him to conclude a peace.

The two brothers then made war on Henry, their youngeſt brother, whom they beſieged in Mount St. Michael, where the king riding one morning unattended, fell in with a party of Henry's ſoldiers, and endeavoured to force his way through them; but was diſmounted, and a ſoldier was going to diſpatch him, when he ſaved his life by crying out, "Hold, fellow, I am the king of England." Upon this the man, dropping his ſword, raiſed the monarch from the ground, and received from him the honour of knighthood, and other favours.

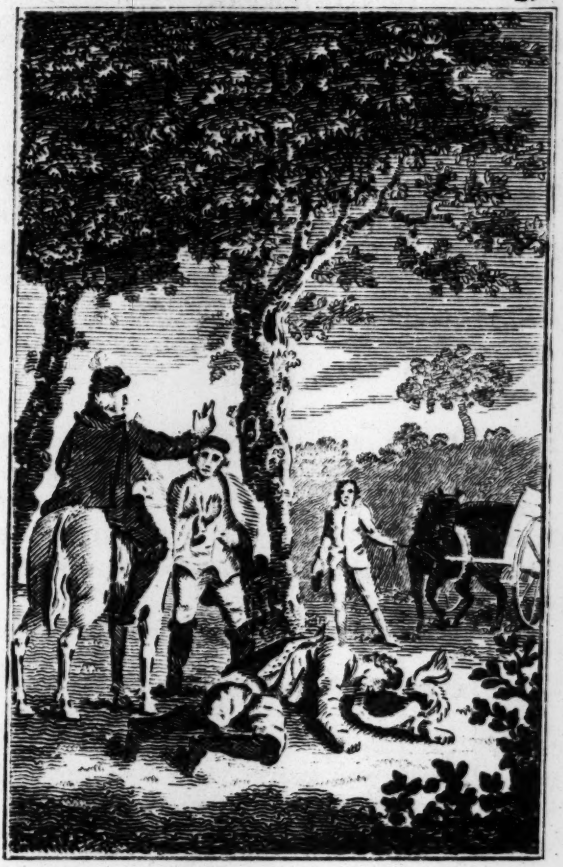
The brothers being ſoon reconciled, William turned his arms againſt Scotland, and defeated the army of king Malcolm, who, with his ſon, were killed juſt before in an ambuſh laid by Mowbray, governor of Northumberland. But ſoon after, Mowbray finding that the king neglected to reward his ſervices, joined with other noblemen to ſet the crown on the head of Stephen,

grandſon

grandſon to William the Conqueror. Upon which the king marched into Yorkſhire, reduced Bamborough, took Mowbray priſoner, and put an end to the rebellion. But at length, William hunting in the New Foreſt, was killed by an arrow, ſhot by Walter Tyrrel, his particular favourite, who, aiming at a deer, ſhot the king in the breaſt, on which he immediately expired, on the 2d of Auguſt, 1100, aged 44, after a reign of thirteen years. It is ſaid, ſo little reſpect was paid to his body, that it was conveyed in a coal-cart to Wincheſter, and was ſoon after interred, in a very private manner, in St. Swithin's church there.

William was equally void of learning, principle, and humanity; haughty, paſſionate, brutal, profligate, and ungrateful; a ſcoffer at religion, a ſcourge to the clergy, vain-glorious, talkative, rapacious, laviſh and diſſolute, and an inveterate enemy to the Engliſh, though he owed his crown to their valour and fidelity, when the Norman lords intended to expel him from the throne. He lived in a ſcandalous commerce with proſtitutes, profeſſing his contempt for marriage. Having no legitimate iſſue, the crown devolved to his brother Henry.

William, at the time of his death, had the archbiſhoprics of Canterbury, the biſhoprics of Wincheſter and Saliſbury, and twelve abbeys in his hands; and in his reign diſpoſed



The Death of William Rufus.

poſed of the biſhopricks and monaſteries to thoſe that bid moſt for them.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1088. A great ſcarcity this year, and the corn not ripe till the end of November.

1091. Oct. 18. Five hundred houſes in London were blown down by a tempeſt.

1092. A terrible fire in London, which conſumed a great part of it.

1096. The firſt deciſion by ſingle combat.

1097. Weſtminſter-Hall built by William Rufus, 270 feet long, and 74 broad.

1100. An inundation of the ſea happened, which overflowed the lands of Godwin earl of Kent, to this day called *Godwin Sands*.

HENRY I. Surnamed BEAUCLERC.

HENRY I. ſurnamed *Beauclerc*, on account of his great learning, was the ſon of William the Conqueror, and the youngeſt brother of William Rufus and Robert. His engaging perſon and addreſs, his courage, learning, and eloquence, have been highly celebrated. Robert being in Paleſtine when William Rufus was killed, in 1100, Henry took advantage of his abſence, and cauſed himſelf to be crowned king of England,

England, on Auguſt 5, 1100; but Robert, at his return, was acknowledged duke of Normandy, and landed at Portſmouth to make good his right to the crown of England. However, Henry came to an agreement with him, by conſenting to pay him an annual tribute of 3000 marks.

This tribute, however, being but ill paid, they rekindled the war a ſhort time after; when Henry landed in Normandy, rendered himſelf maſter of that duchy, after the battle of Tinchebray, fought on the 27th of September, 1106, in which Robert was defeated, and taken priſoner. After which, Henry had the cruelty to cauſe his eyes to be put out, and confined him twenty years in Cardiffe caſtle, in Glamorganſhire. He died the 1ſt of December, 1135, aged 68, leaving his crown to Maud or Matilda, his daughter, but was ſucceeded by Stephen, his nephew.

Henry was of a middle ſtature, and robuſt make, with dark brown hair, and blue ſerene eyes. He was facetious, fluent, and affable to his favourites. He had naturally a good capacity, which was ſo much improved and cultivated, that he acquired the ſurname of *Beauclerk* by his learning. He had great courage and fortitude, but was vindictive, cruel, rigid, and implacable. He was temperate in his diet, but a voluptuary in his amours, which produced a numerous

merous family of illegitimate children. His Norman deſcent inſpired him with a contempt for the Engliſh, whom he oppreſſed by extravagant exactions, which not only enabled him to maintain expenſive wars upon the continent, but he died the richeſt prince in Europe.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1100. Auguſt 5, Henry I. reſtored to the Engliſh the liberty of uſing fire and candle by night.

1112. There was a plague in England.

1114. The Thames was dry for three days.

1122. The order of knights templars was founded.

1132. A great part of London was deſtroyed by fire.

1134. A total eclipſe, and an earthquake.

STEPHEN.

STEPHEN, ſurnamed *Blois*, was the ſon of Stephen earl of Blois, by Adela, daughter of William the Conqueror, and ſucceeded his uncle, Henry I. the 22d of December, 1135, in the 31ſt year of his age, though the Empreſs Maud, the daughter of Henry I. was then living. He endeavoured to ſtrengthen himſelf againſt her, by taking a foreign

foreign army into pay, and by ſigning a charter, in which he acknowledged his being elected king by the clergy and people. He alſo confirmed the rights of the Church, aboliſhed the foreſt laws, and revived the favourite laws of Edward the Confeſſor; but not being able to reward the nobles according to their expectations, a war was ſoon raiſed againſt him; the Welch made an irruption in the Weſt, while David king of Scotland ravaged the northern counties; but having concluded a diſadvantageous peace with them, he fell ill of a lethargy, when the Normans, imagining that he was dead, invited Theobald, his elder brother, to ſeize that duchy; however, Setphen recovering, went over into Normandy, expelled his brother, and then returned to England, where the friends of Maud were ready to declare in her favour, aſſiſted by the king of Scotland: but after the Scots had ravaged Northumberland, and the barons had fortified themſelves in the ſouthern countries, Stephen reduced the caſtles of the latter, invaded Scotland, and compelled king David to conclude another peace with him.

He now wore the crown with great tranquillity for ſome time: but being jealous of the power of the clergy, he ſeized the caſtles belonging to the biſhops of Saliſbury, Lincoln, and Ely; upon which the biſhop of Wincheſter, legate of England, and the king's

king's own brother, became his moſt inveterate enemy. The clergy, who wanted not only caſtles, but garriſons, now made their ambition the cauſe of the people; and the Empreſs Maud took this opportunity of perſonally aſſerting her right to the throne.

The bowels of England were now torn by all the rage of civil war, while the people were plundered by both parties. The king faced the ſtorm with a noble fortitude, he beſieged the empreſs in Wallingford, purſued her to Lincoln, and gave battle to the earl of Glouceſter before that city, when after a great effuſion of blood, the earl was victorious; and the king having broken his battle-ax and ſword in pieces by the force of his blows, was knocked down on his knees with a ſtone before he could be taken; after which he was confined in Briſtol caſtle, and ignominiouſly loaded with irons.

While Stephen was in priſon, his brother, the legate, excommunicated his adherents; the duke of Anjou ſeized upon Normandy, and Maud was every where acknowledged queen; but ſhe behaving with great haughtineſs, and refuſing to mitigate the ſeverity of the Norman laws, a revolt enſued, and Maud was obliged to quit London. The legate, whom ſhe had diſobliged, now turning ſides again, excommunicated her party, and Stephen, being ſet at liberty, was every

where ſucceſsful, till the empreſs and her ſon Henry were obliged to retire to Normandy.

The young prince ſoon after landed an army in England, in order to obtain the crown, but in 1153, Stephen concluded a peace with him; and, upon condition of enjoying the crown during his life, conſented that Henry ſhould ſucceed to it at his death. Stephen died the 25th of October, 1154, in the 50th year of his age, and the 19th of his reign.

Stephen was a prince of great courage, fortitude, and activity, and would have been beloved by his people, had he not been haraſſed by the efforts of a powerful competitor, which obliged him to take ſuch meaſures for his ſafety as were inconſiſtent with the dictates of honour. His neceſſities compelled him to infringe the charter of privileges he granted at his acceſſion. His vices, as a king, ſeem to have been the effect of the troubles in which he was involved; for, as a man, he was brave, open, and liberal; and, during the ſhort calm that ſucceeded the tempeſts of his reign, he travelled through the kingdom, publiſhed an edict to reſtrain all rapine and violence, and diſbanded the foreign mercenaries, who had preyed ſo long upon his people.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1136. There was a great fire in London, which deſtroyed a great part of the city. from Aldgate to St. Paul's church: London bridge, which was of timber, was alſo burnt.

In this reign the canon law was firſt introduced into this nation, and appeals firſt made to the Pope.

Stephen giving leave to the nobility and great men to build caſtles, there were no leſs than 1117 built in this reign.

HENRY II.

HENRY II. the ſon of Geoffrey Plantagenet, and the empreſs Maud, or Matilda, the daughter of Henry I. ſucceeded Stephen, the 20th of December, 1154, in the 23d year of his age. As the ſon of Geoffrey Plantagenet, he inherited the French provinces of Anjou, Touraine, and Maine, and afterwards, by his marriage with Eleanor, obtained Poitou, Saintonge, Guienne, and Gaſcony. In his perſon the Norman and Saxon blood were united, and in him began the race of the Plantagenets, which ended with Richard III.

In 1172, Henry ſailed with a numerous fleet to Ireland, and landed at Waterford; all the Iriſh princes voluntarily ſwore allegiance to him, ſo that he became maſter of that kingdom without bloodſhed, and divided great part of the country among the Engliſh nobles, &c. who attended him in this expedition; and from them ſprung ſome of the principal families now in Ireland. The king had for ſome years before met with continual diſturbance, from the arrogance of Thomas Becket, whom he had raiſed from a mean ſtation to the ſee of Canterbury, but at laſt four knights, thinking to pleaſe his majeſty, murdered that inſolent prelate. What is more extraordinary, the Pope's legate prevailed on the king to do penance, by going barefoot to Becket's ſhrine, and to be ſcourged there by the Auguſtine monks, who gave him eighty laſhes on his naked back.

Henry was brave, learned, prudent, polite, generous, and of a mild diſpoſition; but theſe virtues could not exempt him from ſuffering the greateſt vexations, even in his own family. Luſt was his predominant paſſion; and Eleanor his queen, being jealous of Roſamond, the Lord Clifford's daughter, who was his miſtreſs, and whom he kept at Woodſtock, in a labyrinth, built to ſecure her from the queen's rage, is ſaid to have found means to diſpatch her by poiſon;

ſon; and the young princes, his ſons, being joined by ſeveral of the nobility, and aſſiſted by the kings of France and Scotland, raiſed a great rebellion.

King Henry, however, took the king of Scotland priſoner, and afterwards not only reſtored the young princes to favour, but pardoned all the revolters; however, he obliged the king of Scotland to pay him homage for his kingdom. Henry was ſo mortified at the diſobedience of his ſons, that through grief he became ill at Chinon, in Touraine; and perceiving his end draw near, gave orders for his being carried into the church, where he expired before the altar, on the 6th of July, 1189, in the 57th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign. After which he was ſtripped by his ungrateful attendants, and left naked in the church; but was afterwards interred at Fontevraud in Anjou.

Henry diſplayed all the abilities of a politician, all the ſagacity of a legiſlator, and all the magnanimity of a hero. He was revered above all the princes of his time, and his death was deeply lamented by his ſubjects, whoſe happineſs ſeems to have been the chief aim of all his endeavours. He enacted wholeſome laws. He was generous even to admiration with regard to offences committed againſt himſelf, but he never

forgave the injuries that were offered to his people.

He was of the middle ſtature, and the moſt exact proportion; his countenance was fair and ruddy; his blue eyes were mild and engaging, except in a tranſport of paſſion, when they ſparkled like lightning, to the terror of the beholders. He was broad cheſted, ſtrong, and muſcular. He was eloquent, agreeable, and facetious; remarkably courteous and polite; compaſſionate to all in diſtreſs; and ſo charitable, that he conſtantly allotted one tenth of his houſehold proviſions to the poor.

He cultivated his talents, which were naturally good, and was a generous benefactor to learned men. Henry was not, however, exempted from human frailties; he was prone to anger, tranſported with the luſt of power, and, in particular, accuſed of incontinence, not only in the affair of Roſamond, but alſo in a ſuppoſed commerce with the French princeſs Adelais, who was bred in England, as the future wife of his ſon Richard. This breach of honour and hoſpitality, is, if true, the foulеſt ſtain upon his character; though the fact is doubtful, and we hope the accuſation is falſe.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1162. A ſect called Publicans, rejecting baptiſm, the euchariſt, and marriage, came into England out of Germany this year: the biſhops pronounced them heretics, and they were burnt in the forehead and whipped.

1172. December 30, Becket was murdered in the cathedral at Canterbury by four knights.

1176. The kingdom was firſt divided into ſix circuits, and three judges appointed for each circuit.

1177. The French king came in Pilgrimage to viſit Thomas Becket's tomb.

1185. An earthquake overthrew the church of Lincoln and other churches; and at the ſame time there was almoſt a total eclipſe of the ſun.

RICHARD I.

RICHARD I. ſurnamed *Cœur de Lion*, or *Lion's Heart*, ſucceeded his father, Henry II. the 6th of July, 1189, at which time he was count of Poitou, and duke of Normandy. He commenced his reign by ſelling the crown lands, and exacting money

on various pretences, in order to go to the holy war. He undertook this expedition in 1190, when he embarked with his whole army for France, where he joined the forces of the French king; and they having ratified their alliances, marched together, with their combined forces, which conſiſted of 100,000 men, as far as Lyons, where they ſeparated, and Richard continuing his march to Marſeilles, reimbarked there for Sicily, where the two kings ſpent the winter; and the next ſpring, continuing their voyage, Richard with his fleet was driven on ſhore in the iſland of Cyprus, where Iſaac, the king of the Iſland, treating the Engliſh with inhumanity, Richard took him and his daughters priſoners, loaded the Cyprian monarch with ſilver chains; and having thus conquered the iſle of Cyprus, exchanged it with Guy Luſignan for the titular kingdom of Jeruſalem.

Richard afterwards gained a complete victory over Saladin, took the city of Acre, and made himſelf maſter of Aſcalon, Joppa, and Cæſarea; but being deſerted by Philip Auguſtus, king of France, and the dukes of Burgundy and Auſtria, he could not continue his conqueſts; therefore, on hearing that his brother John was aſpiring to the throne of England, he concluded a truce of three years with Saladin, and embarked in order to return to his dominions; but having the misfortune

misfortune to be ſhiprecked near Aquileia, he reſolved to purſue his journey in diſguiſe through Germany. After ſeveral difficulties, he was taken, when he was aſleep, in a mean lodging near Vienna, by order of Leopold, duke of Auſtria, whom he had diſobliged at the ſiege of Acre; and that duke delivered him up, the following year, to the emperor Henry VI. who, after treating him with great indignities, obliged him to pay 150,000 marks for his ranſom, which his loyal ſubjects cheerfully raiſed by a voluntary tax.

He then returned to England, after an abſence of four years, of which he had paſſed fifteen months in priſon. He ſoon ſuppreſſed the party raiſed by his brother John, confiſcated his lands, and then raiſing a numerous army, invaded France, and afterwards, at the battle of Blois, took all the archives of the kingdom, and continued the war againſt Philip, with various ſucceſs, for five years, after which a truce was concluded. But a gentleman of Limoſin having diſcovered a treaſure upon his eſtate, Richard laid claim to it, as ſovereign of Guienne; and beſieging the gentleman in the caſtle of Chaluz, was wounded by an arrow in the ſhoulder, of which he died eleven days after, on the 6th of April, 1199.

Richard had a tall, graceful, fair, and well-proportioned perſon. His eyes were blue

blue and ſparkling, and his hair of a bright yellow, inclined to red.

He had prodigious ſtrength of body, amazing courage and intrepidity; his penetration was uncommon; he poſſeſſed a fund of manly eloquence; and he was admired for his talent at repartee. He was an illuſtrious warrior, but exceedingly ambitious, proud, choleric, cruel, vindictive, debauched, and avaricious; and his love of glory made him neglect the happineſs of his people. The reverend Mr. Grainger obſerves, that the ſaint-errantry of Richard, who ſacrificed all other views for the glory of the cruſade, is an inſtance, among a thouſand others, that offenſive and enterpriſing valour may be a worſe quality than cowardice itſelf; and that he was but eight months in his kingdom during a reign of ten years. He has been aptly compared to a lion, a ſpecies of animals which he reſembled, not only in his courage, but likewiſe in his ferocity.

In this time the city of London began to aſſume a new form with reſpect to its government; to have a mayor, and to be divided into ſeveral corporations or ſocieties, now termed companies.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1191. The ſun was totally eclipſed.

1192. Grain was ſo ſcarce, that wheat was ſold for twenty ſhillings per quarter, which was equal to ſix pounds of the preſent money.

1197. At this time lived Robin Hood and Little John; the former was betrayed at a nunnery at Berkley: being ſick, he deſired to be blooded, and was bled to death.

1197. There was a great famine throughout England, attended with a mortality.

Richard was the firſt king of England that bore in his ſhield three lions paſſant.

JOHN.

JOHN, ſurnamed *Sans Terre*, or *Lackland*, was the fourth ſon of king Henry II. and was born at Oxford, in 1166. He aſcended the throne in 1199, after the death of his brother Richard I. though Arthur, duke of Britanny, to whom it lawfully belonged, as being the ſon of Geoffrey, his eldeſt brother, diſputed it with him; but the young prince being taken by ſurpriſe at Mirabeau in Brittany, in 1202, was murdered in priſon. Upon this, Conſtance, the mother of Arthur,

thur, implored the aſſiſtance of Philip Auguſtus, king of France, who promiſed to ſtrip him of all the lands he poſſeſſed in France; and Pope Innocent III. not only excommunicated him, but abſolved all his ſubjects from their oath of allegiance.

At length the Pope ſent Pandulph his nuncio into England, who offered the king the Pope's protection, on condition of his ſwearing to obey the pontiff, and to reſign his crown to him. To this John conſented, and repairing to Dover church, in the preſence of the prieſts and people, took off his crown, diſrobed himſelf, and laid all his enſigns of royalty at the feet of the nuncio, who was ſeated on a throne. After which he ſigned a paper, by which he reſigned the kingdom of England, with the lordſhip of Ireland, to the holy ſee; and bound himſelf as a vaſſal, to pay 700 marks annually for England, and 300 for Ireland; and then did homage to the Pope in the perſon of his nuncio, who kept the crown and ſceptre five days in his poſſeſſion.

The barons of England, fired with indignation at this meanneſs, and oppreſſed by the heavy taxes with which he loaded them, had recourſe to arms, and demanded a re-eſtabliſhment of the laws of Edward the Confeſſor, and a renewal of the charter of Henry I. which being refuſed by the king, they choſe Robert Fitzwalter for their

general, marched to London, and beſieged him in the Tower. The king complied when he could no longer reſiſt, and agreed to meet the barons in Runnymede, or the Mead of Council, between Staines and Windſor; and there being unable to obtain ſupplies from his people, and finding himſelf too weak to withſtand his enemies, granted whatever they deſired; and hence aroſe that famous charter of liberties, called *Magna Charta*, which he was obliged to ſign, and alſo the charter of the liberties of the foreſt, charters that have been ſince eſteemed the foundation of the Engliſh liberties.

The king, however, though he had ratified theſe charters with a moſt ſolemn oath, brought over an army from Flanders, and ravaged the whole kingdom. Upon this the barons applied for aſſiſtance to the king of France, promiſing the crown to his ſon Lewis, if he would come with a force ſufficient to reſcue them from the tyranny of John.

Lewis ſoon came to their aſſiſtance, landed at Sandwich, and took Rocheſter, while John retired to Wincheſter, having prevailed on the Pope to excommunicate both the French king and the Engliſh barons; but being deſerted by ſome of his mercenaries, the Dauphin beſieged Dover, while the barons inveſted Windſor; after which the country was ravaged by both parties,

who came to no engagement. At length, grief and fatigue threw the king into a fever, which is ſaid to have been heightened by his eating of peaches and drinking new ale. He died at Newark, October 18, 1216, in the 51ſt year of his age, and the 17th of his reign. Others ſay, that he was poiſoned by a monk.

John was in his perſon taller than the middle ſize, of a good ſhape, and agreeable countenance. With reſpect to his diſpoſition, it is ſtrongly delineated in the tranſactions of his reign. If his underſtanding was contemptible, his heart was the object of deteſtation: we find him ſlothful, ſhallow, proud, imperious, ſudden, raſh, cruel, vindictive, perfidious, cowardly, libidinous, and inconſtant; abject in adverſity, and overbearing in ſucceſs; contemned and hated by his ſubjects, over whom he tyrannized to the utmoſt of his power; abhorred by the clergy, whom he oppreſſed with exactions; and deſpiſed by all the neighbouring princes of Europe.

Though he might have paſſed through life without incurring ſuch a load of odium and contempt, had not his reign been perplexed by the turbulence of his barons, the rapaciouſneſs of the pope, and the ambition of ſuch a monarch as Philip Auguſtus, his character could never have afforded one quality that would have exempted him from

the diſguſt and ſcorn of his people. Nevertheleſs, it muſt be acknowledged that his reign is not altogether barren of laudable tranſactions. He regulated the form of the civil government in the city of London, and ſeveral other places in the kingdom: he was the firſt who coined ſterling money, introduced the laws of England into Ireland, and granted to the Cinque-ports thoſe privileges of which they are ſtill poſſeſſed.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1202. The aſſize of bread was firſt appointed.

1212. July 10. Great part of London was deſtroyed by fire; and near 3000 people periſhed by this accident, ſome by water, and ſome by fire.

London bridge, built of ſtone, was finiſhed.

King John, as already obſerved, was the firſt king of England who coined ſterling money, and gave the Cinque-ports the privileges which they now enjoy.

HENRY III.

HENRY III. king of England, commonly called *Henry of Wincheſter*, from his being

being born in that city, was born October 1, 1207, and ſucceeded his father, king John, the 28th of October, 1216, when he was only nine years of age. Lewis, the dauphin of France, afterwards king Lewis VII. who was called in by the barons againſt king John, was then in England; but having received a large ſum of money, returned into France. When Henry was of age, he began with exacting large ſums of money, and annulling the two ſacred charters granted by his father. He landed in Brittany with a numerous army, in order to recover the Britiſh dominions in France; but, ſpending his time in diverſions, he ſhamefully returned, after having ſpent all his treaſures. Afterwards renewing the war, he loſt all Poitou, and then concluded a peace with Lewis for five years, to purchaſe which, Henry agreed to pay him 5000 pounds annually.

The king, who paid no regard to the conſtitution of England, met with many mortifications from his parliament and people, who at length obliged him to renew the two charters; which was done in Weſtminſter-hall in the following manner, viz. the peers being aſſembled in the preſence of the king, each holding a lighted taper, the archbiſhop of Canterbury denounced a terrible curſe againſt thoſe who ſhould violate the laws, or alter the conſtitutions of the kingdom. Then the

the charters were read aloud, and confirmed by the king, who all this time kept his hand upon his breaſt: after which every one threw his taper on the ground, to raiſe a great ſmoke, and wiſhed that thoſe who violated the charters might ſmoke in hell. After which, the parliament granted him a ſubſidy for ſuppreſſing an inſurrection in Guienne. He ſoon reduced that province, and returned to England, where he renewed his exactions.

The people being ſtill oppreſſed, and the barons finding that Henry could not be bound by the moſt ſolemn oaths, undertook to reform the government: accordingly, commiſſioners were choſen by the king and the barons, and articles agreed on, which the king again broke. At laſt they came to an open war, when a deciſive battle was fought near Lewes, in Suſſex, in which the king's army was defeated, and himſelf, prince Edward, and the king of the Romans, taken priſoners. But afterwards the earls of Leiceſter and Glouceſter quarrelling, the latter joined prince Edward, who had eſcaped from his keepers, and uniting their forces, marched againſt the earl of Leiceſter, whom they defeated and ſlew. The king was then ſet at liberty, but peace was not reſtored till ſome time after; when prince Edward engaged in a cruſade, and went to the Holy Land. His father, king Henry, did not live to ſee him return, but died at London, on

the 16th of November, 1272, aged 65, in the 56th year of his reign, and was buried in Weſtminſter-abbey. He had nine children, whereof only two ſons, Edward and Edmund, and two daughters, Margaret and Beatrix, ſurvived him.

Henry was of a middle ſize and robuſt make, and his countenance had a peculiar caſt from his left eye-lid, which hung down ſo far as to cover part of his eye. He was a prince of very mean talents; irreſolute, inconſtant, and capricious; proud, inſolent, and arbitrary; arrogant in proſperity, and abject in adverſity; profuſe, rapacious, and choleric, though deſtitute of liberality, œconomy, and courage. Yet his continence was praiſe-worthy, as well as his averſion to cruelty; for he contented himſelf with puniſhing the rebels in their effects, when he might have glutted his revenge with their blood. He was prodigal even to exceſs, and therefore always in neceſſity. Notwithſtanding the great ſums he levied from his ſubjects, and though his occaſions were never ſo preſſing, he could not help ſquandering away his money upon worthleſs favourites, without conſidering the difficulty he always found in obtaining ſupplies from parliament.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1217. The order of Franciſcans, or Cordeliers, ſettled in England this year, as did alſo the Dominicans.

1218. St. Peter's houſe in Cambridge was founded by Hugh de Balſam, tenth biſhop of Ely.

1220. Thomas a Becket's bones were enſhrined in gold, ſet with precious ſtones, by the then archbiſhop.

1221. The firſt ſtone of Weſtminſter-abbey was laid.

1222. Three impoſtors, one of whom pretended to be Jeſus Chriſt, were ſentenced to perpetual impriſonment, and to be fed on bread and water.

1223. A ſynod was held, which forbad the marriage of prieſts.

1225. Two impoſtors were executed, one for pretending to be the Virgin Mary, and the other Mary Magdalen.

1242. Aldermen were firſt elected in London.

1246. Tiles were firſt brought into uſe.

1251. Wales was wholly ſubdued, and received the Engliſh laws.

1251. Magna Charta was ſolemnly confirmed.

1253.

1253. Fine linen was firſt made in England.

1269. The bones of Edward the Confeſſor were enſhrined in gold, and ſet with precious ſtones.

EDWARD I.

EDWARD I. king of England, ſurnamed *Long Shanks*; was the ſon of Henry III. and born at Wincheſter, June 16, 1230. He carried on a cruſade againſt the Saracens, where, with only 10,000 Engliſhmen, he ſtruck a general panic into the infidels. He there narrowly eſcaped being murdered, being wounded by an aſſaſſin in the arm with a poiſoned dagger; and it is ſaid that he owed his life to the affection of his queen Eleanor, who ſucked the venom out of the wound. While he was on his return from Paleſtine, he heard of the death of his father, which happened in 1272; and arriving in England with his queen, they were both crowned on the 9th of Auguſt, 1274. He began his reign by confirming the Magna Charta, and by making a ſtrict enquiry into the affairs of the kingdom. He then defeated and ſlew Lewellen, prince of Wales, who had revolted; and afterwards ſummoning a parliament at Ruthen, it was there reſolved that Wales ſhould be united to England: when

when ſome of the Welch nobles telling the king, that he would never peaceably enjoy their country, till they were governed by a prince of their own nation, he ſent for the queen to lie-in at Caernarvon, where being delivered of a prince, the ſtates acknowledged him for their ſovereign; and, ſince that time, the eldeſt ſons of the kings of England have borne the title of prince of Wales. Soon after, queen Eleanor dying at Grantham, in Lincolnſhire, Edward erected a croſs at every place where the corpſe reſted in the way to Weſtminſter.

Edward then carrying his arms into Scotland, took Berwick, Dunbar, and Edinburgh; and John Baliol, their king, repairing to Edward, renewed his oath of fidelity, and put the whole kingdom in his power. But while Edward was endeavouring to recover ſome dominions which he had loſt in France by treachery, the brave William Wallace roſe up in the defence of his country, and having ſuddenly diſpoſſeſſed the Engliſh of all the ſtrong places they held, was declared regent of the kingdom: on which Edward haſtily returned from France, advanced into Scotland at the head of a powerful army, and defeated Wallace, who, ſeveral years after, was betrayed into the hands of the Engliſh, and ſent to London, where that great hero ſuffered the death of a traitor. Edward was ſeized with a dyſentery,

and

and died at a place called Burgh on the Sands, in Cumberland, on July 7, 1307, in the 68th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign, and was interred in Weſtminſter-abbey. He was a prince of a very dignified appearance, tall in ſtature, regular and comely in his features, with keen piercing black eyes, and of an aſpect that commanded reverence and eſteem. His conſtitution was robuſt; his ſtrength and dexterity perhaps unequalled in his kingdom; and his ſhape was unblemiſhed in all other reſpects but that of his legs, which are ſaid to have been too long in proportion to his body; whence he derived the epithet of Long-Shanks. In the qualities of the head, he equalled the greateſt monarchs who have ſat on the Engliſh throne; he was cool, penetrating, ſagacious, and circumſpect. The remoteſt corners of the earth reſounded with the fame of his courage; and all over Europe he was conſidered as the flower of chivalry. Nor was he leſs conſummate in his legiſlative capacity than eminent for his military proweſs. He new modelled the adminiſtration of juſtice, ſo as to render it more ſure and ſummary; he fixed proper bounds to the different courts of juriſdiction; ſettled a new and eaſy method of collecting the revenue, and eſtabliſhed wiſe and effectual regulations for preſerving peace and order among his ſubjects. Yet, with all theſe

theſe good qualities, he cheriſhed a dangerous ambition, to which he did not ſcruple to ſacrifice the good of his country. That he was arbitrary in his diſpoſition, appears in many inſtances of his reign, particularly that of ſeizing for his own uſe the merchandize of his ſubjects. The cruelty of his nature was manifeſted in every expedition he undertook either in Wales or Scotland. Though he is celebrated for his chaſtity and regular deportment, there is not, in the whole courſe of his reign, one inſtance of liberality or munificence. He had great abilities, but no genius; and was an accompliſhed warrior, without the leaſt ſpark of heroiſm.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1279. Two hundred and eighty Jews were hanged for clipping and coining.

1285. Weſtminſter-abbey, which had been ſixty years in building, was finiſhed this year.

1286. May 2, the Jews were all ſeized by order of the king, who extorted twelve thouſand pounds of ſilver from them.

1299. Spectacles were firſt invented by a monk of Piſa.

1302. The magnetic needle firſt brought into uſe.

EDWARD II.

EDWARD II.

Surnamed of Caernarvon.

EDWARD II. king of England, was born at Caernarvon, April 25, 1284, and ſucceeded his father, Edward I. in 1307, at 23 years of age. He recalled Piers Gaveſton, the debaucher of his youth, whom his father had baniſhed. Then marrying Iſabella of France, the daughter of Philip the Fair, they were both crowned at Weſtminſter, on the 24th of February, 1308. His ridiculous fondneſs for Gaveſton occaſioned innumerable diſputes, till at length the barons had recourſe to arms, and Gaveſton was beheaded. An accommodation was afterwards effected between the king and the barons, and peace reſtored in 1312. The ſame year the queen was delivered of a ſon, who was named Edward. In the mean time, the Scots obtained three victories over the Engliſh, and made themſelves maſters of every place in Scotland. This weak prince raiſed the two Spencers, father and ſon, to the ſummit of power; who being baniſhed by the parliament, the king levied an army, took ſome caſtles from the barons, and recalled his two favourites.

Some time after, Edward invaded Scotland; but wanting proviſions, he returned without

without ſtriking a blow: on which Bruce, king of Scotland, purſued him to York, and, after having deſtroyed twenty thouſand of the Engliſh, conſented to a peace for thirteen years. The two Spencers ſoon incurred the general hatred, and queen Iſabella flying to France with her ſon, the nobility ſent for her; when landing, and proceeding towards London with a numerous army, the king fled into the weſt: ſhe ſtill purſued him, and he ſet ſail for Ireland, but was driven back into Wales, and being taken, was ſent priſoner to the queen. Hugh Spencer, the father, was hanged and quartered, without a trial, and the young Spencer hanged on a gibbet 50 feet high.

The queen was entirely governed by Roger Mortimer, earl of March, whom ſhe took to her bed: and the king being obliged to reſign the crown in 1327, his ſon Edward was proclaimed king. After which, the late ſovereign was treated with the greateſt indignities, and at laſt inhumanly murdered in Berkley caſtle: for ſome aſſaſſins having covered him with a feather-bed, held him down, while others conveyed a horn pipe up his body, through which they thruſt a red hot iron, and thus burnt his bowels. His body was buried in a private manner in the abbey church at Glouceſter, and it was given out that he died a natural death.

Thus periſhed Edward II. after having atoned by his ſufferings for all the errors of his conduct. He reſembled his father in the accompliſhments of his perſon, as well as in his countenance; but in other reſpects he ſeems to have inherited only the defects of his character; for he was cruel and illiberal, without his valour or capacity. He had levity, indolence, and irreſolution, in common with other weak princes; but the diſtinguiſhing foible of his character was that unaccountable paſſion for the reigning favourite, to which he ſacrificed every other conſideration of policy and convenience, and at laſt fell a miſerable victim. Yet his bittereſt enemies never alledged that any thing unnatural entered into the compoſition of that ſingular attachment which he expreſſed for Gaveſton and the younger Spencer. In this reign there was the moſt terrible earthquake that had ever been felt in England, and a dreadful famine, which laſted three years, and deſtroyed a vaſt number of people.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1309. Crockery ware was invented.

1316. Exeter college, Oxford, was founded by Walter Stapleton, biſhop of Exeter.

1316. On account of a great famine this year,

year, the parliament limited the price of proviſions as follows: an ox for ſixteen ſhillings; a cow, twelve ſhillings; a hog, two years old, three and four-pence; a ſheep, unſhorn, one ſhilling and eight-pence; if ſhorn, one ſhilling and two-pence; a gooſe, two-pence-halfpenny; a capon, two-pence; a hen, one penny; twenty-four eggs, one penny; a quarter of wheat, beans, or peaſe, ſold for twenty ſhillings; and whoever did not comply with this regulation, forfeited the proviſions to the king.

1319. The univerſity of Dublin was founded.

1322. The order of the Knights Templars was aboliſhed by Pope Clement the Firſt.

1326. Oriel college in Oxford was founded by the king, or his almoner, Adam de Blome.

EDWARD III.

EDWARD III. was born at Windſor, November 15, 1312, and was placed on the throne the 26th day of January, 1327, at 14 years of age, while his father Edward II. was living. Though a regency was appointed by the parliament, the queen and Roger Mortimer had the ſole authority; and, influenced by them, the young king

not only renounced all pretenſions to Scotland, but gave his ſiſter in marriage to David Bruce, king of the Scots: yet, afterwards becoming ſenſible of the queen's ill conduct, he confined her for life, and cauſed Mortimer, earl of March, to be hanged at Tyburn. He then broke the truce with Scotland, invaded that kingdom, and obliged king David to fly with his queen into France, when he ſet up Edward Baliol, ſon of John Baliol, in his room. The king of England marched an army to lay ſiege to Berwick which was ſtill in king David's hands. The regent of Scotland advanced with a great army to its relief, but Edward met him at Halidowne-hill, and in a bloody battle, A. D. 1333, entirely routed him: after which Berwick ſurrendered, which Edward annexed for ever to the crown of England. However, the Scots drove Baliol out of the kingdom; upon which Edward marched with a numerous army in 1335, and attacked Scotland by ſea and land, whereupon they ſubmitted. Edward now laid claim to France; for Charles, his mother's brother, dying, Philip of Valois had poſſeſſed himſelf of the kingdom, alledging the Salic law; but Edward aſſerted, that the Salic law, in excluding females from the ſucceſſion, did not exclude their male iſſue; on which he grounded his title. His firſt campaign paſſed without bloodſhed, but

but he took the title of king of France, and quartered his arms with the fleurs de lis, adding the motto *Dieu et mon droit*, or, God and my right. However, in his next attempt, he defeated the French fleet. He then beſieged Tournay; but being called home to oppoſe the Scots, concluded a truce for one year with Philip king of France. In the next campaign he ravaged all the country up to the walls of Paris, and his ſon the Black Prince of Wales, at ſixteen years of age, won the glorious battle of Creſſy. Six weeks after this, queen Philippa defeated the Scots and took king David priſoner. Theſe memorable victories were obtained in 1346. Edward then laid ſiege to Calais, and having reduced it by famine, returned to England. He ſoon after ſent the Black Prince, who, after taking ſeveral towns, totally routed the French army, commanded by king John, who had ſucceeded Philip; and in this memorable battle, which was fought near Poictiers, took the king, many nobles, and a multitude of private men, priſoners, though the French army was ſix times as numerous as the Engliſh. Thus Edward had the honour of having two kings his priſoners at the ſame time, John of France, and David Bruce, king of Scotland. The king of Scotland, who reſided at Odiham, in Hampſhire, was afterwards ranſomed for 100,000 marks; and the French king, who

lived at the Savoy, agreed to pay for his ranſom 500,000 pounds, and a conſiderable extent of country.

Charles, king of France, afterwards carried on a war with Edward, when the Engliſh were driven from all the places they had ſo nobly conquered, except Calais. However, a truce was concluded between the two crowns in 1374.

On June 8, 1376, died Edward, prince of Wales, the delight of the nation, in the 46th year of his age. He was called the Black Prince, from his wearing black armour. The parliament attended his corpſe to Canterbury, where he was interred.

King Edward diſtinguiſhed himſelf by inſtituting the order of the Garter; and died at Richmond, in Surry, June 21, 1377, in the 65th year of his age, and the 51ſt of his reign, and was interred in Weſtminſter-abbey.

Edward III. was, doubtleſs, one of the greateſt princes that ever ſwayed the ſcepter of England, whether we reſpect him as a warrior or a lawgiver, a monarch or a man. He was tall, majeſtic, finely ſhaped, with a piercing eye, and aquiline viſage. He excelled all his contemporaries in feats of arms, or perſonal addreſs. He was courteous, affable, and eloquent, of a free deportment, and agreeable converſation, and had the art of commanding the affection of his ſubjects,

without

without ſeeming to ſolicit popularity. He was a conſtitutional knight-errant, and his example diffuſed the ſpirit of chivalry through the whole nation. The love of glory was certainly the predominant paſſion of Edward, to the gratification of which he did not ſcruple to ſacrifice the feelings of humanity, the lives of his ſubjects, and the intereſt of his country. And nothing could have induced or enabled his people to bear the load of taxes with which they were incumbered in this reign, but the love and admiration of his perſon, the fame of his victories, and the excellent laws and regulations which the parliaments enacted with his advice and concurrence.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1330. Gunpowder was invented by Swarth, a monk of Cologne.

1331. The art of weaving ſilk was brought from Flanders to England by John Kemp.

1340. Edward took the title of *King of France*, and quartered with his own arms the fleurs de lis of France. At the ſame time he uſed the motto, *Dieu et mon droit*.

1344. Gold was firſt coined in England.

1346. Auguſt 24. Cannon, or great guns,

guns, firſt uſed by the Engliſh at the battle of Creſſy.

1352. At this time the largeſt ſilver coin in England was a groat.

1361. A great plague in England, which, between January and July, took off in London 57,374 perſons, and in Paris 30,000.

1362. An act was made, that the council ſhould plead in the Engliſh language, French having been uſed before that time.

1362. The king being arrived at his fiftieth year, granted a general pardon for all offences.

RICHARD II.

RICHARD II. king of England, was the ſon of Edward the Black Prince, and was born at Bourdeaux, January 6, 1366. He ſucceeded his grandfather, Edward III. the 21ſt of June, 1377, at eleven years of age; when the parliament appointed ſeveral governors to the king, and ordered that his three uncles, with ſome of the nobility, ſhould be regents of the kingdom. A truce, which had been agreed to with France, being now expired, the French ſent a fleet to ravage the coaſts of England, and the regents ordered out a fleet to oppoſe them. The king of France alſo prevailed on Robert II. king of Scotland, to invade England; but

but the French king dying, the military preparations were ſuſpended. In 1380, a poll tax being raiſed on all perſons above 15 years of age, for the aſſiſtance of Ferdinand, king of Portugal, againſt John, king of Caſtile, it was levied with the greateſt rigour and brutality by the collectors, on which a rebellion was raiſed, and 100,000 men appeared in arms, headed by Wat Tyler, a tyler of Deptford, and Jack Straw, who committed innumerable diſorders, and entered London without oppoſition: but William Walworth, the mayor, killing Wat Tyler with a blow of his ſword, this great army was eaſily diſperſed. The kingdom ſoon after becoming greatly exaſperated at the ridiculous fondneſs ſhewn by the king for his new favourites, Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, and Michael de la Pole, a merchant's ſon, whom he had created earl of Suffolk, the parliament refuſed to grant the ſupplies, unleſs he diſmiſſed them from his ſervice. But though the king ſaid, "that to pleaſe the parliament he would not turn out the meaneſt ſcullion in his kitchen," and ſent his chancellor to order them to grant the deſired ſubſidy, he was obliged to part with his favourites, and to admit of fourteen commiſſioners to take care of the public affairs jointly with himſelf. The parliament were, however, no ſooner diſſolved, than they were recalled, and the king ſent orders to the

the ſheriffs, to let no repreſentatives be choſen but what were in his liſt. He alſo endeavoured to raiſe an army, to chaſtiſe his uncle, the duke of Glouceſter, and the earls of Arundel, Warwick, Derby, and Nottingham, who were enemies to his favourites, and were conſidered as the protectors of the people; but theſe lords ſpeedily levying forces, defeated the earl of Oxford, who had been made duke of Ireland; when the king took refuge in the Tower, where, the next year, he anſwered the complaints of the lords with a ſhower of tears, conſented to the baniſhment of his favourites, who were accordingly ſent into exile, and repeated his coronation oath. In 1392, the Londoners refuſing to lend the king a ſum of money, he took away their charter, and removed the courts of juſtice to York. Anne of Luxemburgh, the emperor's daughter, and the king's firſt wife, dying in 1394, he, in 1396, married Iſabella, the daughter of Charles VI. king of France, who was only ſeven years of age, when a truce was concluded for twenty-eight years. Richard, however, extorted money from his ſubjects, and, for inconſiderable ſums, yielded Cherburgh to the king of Navarre, and Breſt to the duke of Brittany. He ordered the duke of Glouceſter to be ſeized and conveyed to Calais, where he was privately ſtrangled, and ſome of the nobility were beheaded,

and

and others baniſhed. The Scots ravaged the borders of England, the Iriſh revolted, and the merchant-ſhips were plundered with impunity by the corſairs of Holland. Seventeen counties were condemned as guilty of treaſon, and the eſtates of all the inhabitants adjudged to the king, for granting aſſiſtance to the duke of Glouceſter; but the king landing in Ireland in 1399, with a powerful army, in order to chaſtiſe the rebels, a rebellion was raiſed in his abſence, when the king, at his return, finding that the revolt was general, ſhut himſelf up in Conway caſtle in Wales. He ſoon after ſubmitted to Henry duke of Lancaſter, and was ſent to the Tower; when a parliament being called, he was ſolemnly depoſed, and Henry proclaimed king, on the 30th of September, 1399; after which, Richard was removed to Pontefract caſtle, in Yorkſhire; but on the 14th of February, 1400, Sir Pierce Exton, with eight ruffians, undertook to murder him, hoping thereby to pleaſe king Henry IV. and ruſhed into the room where he was, when Richard bravely wreſted a pole-ax from one of the aſſaſſins, with which he ſlew four of them; but Exton mounting on a chair behind him, ſtruck him on the head with ſuch violence, that he dropped down dead, in the 33d year of his age, after a reign of 22 years, and was interred at King's Langley, in Hertfordſhire: but his body

was

was afterwards removed to Weſtminſter abbey, by order of king Henry V.

Richard II. had a very graceful perſon, and was of a ſprightly diſpoſition. He was, however, a weak, vain, frivolous, and inconſtant prince; a dupe to flattery, and a ſlave to oſtentation. He was idle, profuſe, and profligate: and though brave by ſtarts, naturally pufillanimous and irreſolute. His pride and reſentment prompted him to cruelty and breach of faith, while his neceſſities obliged him to fleece his people, and degrade the dignity of his character and ſtation. He had no iſſue by either of his two marriages.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1378. John Philpot, an Alderman of London, fits out a fleet at his own expence, and takes a great number of prizes.

1378. Greenland was this year diſcovered by a Venetian.

1381. Bills of exchange are firſt mentioned as uſed this year.

1387. The firſt high admiral of England was appointed.

1388. Bombs were invented this year by a man at Venlo.

1391. Playing cards were invented for the amuſement of the king of France.

1398.

1398. Cheſhire erected into a principality.

In this reign the ladies wore high dreſſes on their heads, piked horns, with long-trained gowns, and rode on ſide-ſaddles, after the example of the princeſs Ann, of Bohemia, who firſt brought that faſhion into this country, before which time they uſed to ride aſtride like men.

HENRY IV.

Surnamed of Bolingbroke.

HENRY IV. duke of Lancaſter and Hereford, was born in 1367, and proclaimed king after the depoſition of Richard II. on the 30th of September, 1399. He was the eldeſt ſon of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter, third ſon of Edward III. He had not a juſt claim to the crown, which of right belonged to Edward Mortimer, earl of March, then duke of York, the deſcendant of Lionel, duke of Clarence, the ſecond ſon of Edward III. which occaſioned the wars between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, under the device of the white roſe and red. The next year, the dukes of Exeter, Surrey, and Albemarle, the earls of Saliſbury and Glouceſter, the biſhop of Carliſle, and Sir Thomas Blount, the friends of Richard, formed a conſpiracy, in order to

aſſaſſinate Henry, and reſtore Richard to the throne: but being diſcovered, and their whole ſcheme fruſtrated, they aſſembled an army of 40,000 men, and ſet up Maudlin, a prieſt, whoſe perſon reſembled Richard, to pretend that he was Richard himſelf; but in this they alſo failed; moſt of the leaders were taken and beheaded, and Maudlin was hanged at London. This conſpiracy haſtened the death of the unfortunate king Richard, who was ſoon after baſely murdered at Pontefract. In 1402, Henry cauſed Sir Roger Clarendon, the natural ſon of Edward the Black Prince, and ſeveral others, to be put to death, for maintaining that Richard was alive. The ſame year he married Johanna of Navarre, widow of the duke of Brittany.

About this time the Scots invaded England, under the earl of Douglas, but were defeated at Hallidown-Hill, by the earl of Northumberland, and his ſon Henry Hotſpur, with the loſs of above 10,000 men; and in this victory ſeveral earls, and many other perſons of conſequence, were made priſoners: but the king ordering Northumberland to deliver up the priſoners into his hands, the earl was ſo exaſperated, that he, with Henry Piercy, ſurnamed Hotſpur, his ſon, and other lords, agreed to crown Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, whom Owen Glendowr kept priſoner in Wales.

The

The rebel army were encamped near Shrewſbury, headed by Henry Hotſpur, the earl of Worceſter, and the Scotch earl of Douglas: and the king marched directly thither with 14,000 choice troops, headed by himſelf, the prince of Wales, and the earl of Dunbar; and, on the 22d of July, 1403, at a place afterwards called Battlefield, the king obtained ſo complete a victory, that about 10,000 of the rebels were killed, among whom was the brave Hotſpur, who fell by the hands of the prince of Wales. In 1405, another conſpiracy was raiſed, headed by the archbiſhop of York, the earl of Northumberland, Thomas Mowbray, Earl Marſhal, and other noblemen, who aſſembled a large body of troops at York, and publiſhed a manifeſto, declaring the king a traitor, and that they were reſolved to place Mortimer, the lawful heir, on the throne. But this rebellion was ſoon ſuppreſſed, by the policy of Ralph Nevil, earl of Weſtmoreland.

Henry died in the Jeruſalem Chamber at Weſtminſter, on the 20th of March, 1413, in the 46th year of his age, and the 14th of his reign, and was interred at the Cathedral at Canterbury.

Henry IV. was of the middle ſtature, well proportioned, and perfect in all the exerciſes of arms and chivalry: his countenance was ſevere rather than ſerene; and

his diſpoſition ſour, ſullen, and reſerved. He poſſeſſed a great ſhare of courage, fortitude, and penetration; was naturally imperious, though he bridled his temper with caution; ſuperſtitious, though without the leaſt tincture of virtue and true religion; and meanly parſimonious, though juſtly cenſured for want of œconomy, and ill-judged profuſion. He roſe to the throne by perfidy and treaſon; eſtabliſhed his authority in the blood of his ſubjects; and died a penitent for his ſins, becauſe he could no longer enjoy the fruits of his tranſgreſſions.

His actions had very little worthy or eminent in them; one thing, at leaſt, has fixed an indelible ſtain on his memory, viz. his being the firſt burner of heretics.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

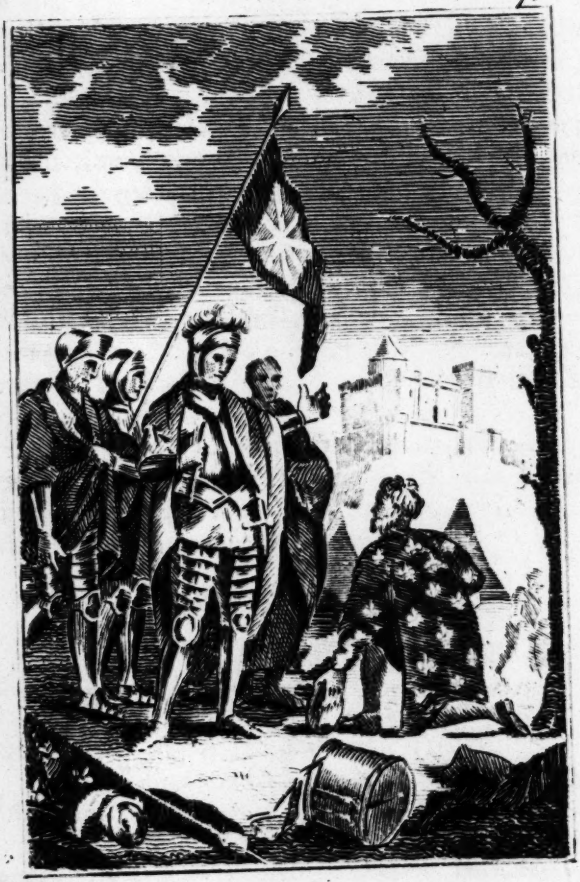
1399. Geoffrey Chaucer, the poet, died this year.

1407. A great plague in London, which ſwept away above 30,000 inhabitants.

1407. The collars of SS were firſt worn in England.

HENRY V. Surnamed of MONMOUTH.

HENRY V. the eldeſt ſon of king Henry IV. was born in 1388, and ſucceeded his



King Henry the 5.th Names the Battle of Agincourt.

his father in 1413. Though wild and unruly in his youth, he no ſooner obtained the crown, than he proved himſelf a wiſe and a warlike prince. He choſe a council of ſtate, compoſed of men of diſtinguiſhed wiſdom, and commanded thoſe who had been the companions of his irregularities, either to change their manners, or never to approach his perſon. He revived the Engliſh title to the crown of France, and in 1415 embarked his army, amounting to 15,000 men, and having landed at Havre-de-Grace, laid ſiege to Harfleur, which ſurrendered in five weeks. Soon after, the French king, having aſſembled an army ſix times as numerous as that of Henry, challenged him to fight, and Henry conſented, though the French army conſiſted of 150,000 men, and the Engliſh were reduced by ſickneſs to 9000. The French, therefore, made rejoicings in their camp, as if the Engliſh were already defeated, and even ſent to Henry to know what he would give for his ranſom; to which he replied, "A few hours would ſhew whoſe care it would be to make that proviſion." The Engliſh, though fatigued with their march, ſick of a flux, and almoſt ſtarved for want of food, were inſpired by the example of their brave king, and reſolved to conquer or die. On the 25th of October, 1415, the king being encamped near Agincourt, drew up his ſmall army into

two lines, the firſt commanded by the duke of York, and the ſecond by himſelf: he diſpoſed his few men to ſuch advantage, and behaved with ſuch extraordinary conduct and courage, that he gained a complete victory, after having been ſeveral times knocked down, and in the moſt imminent danger of loſing his life. The Engliſh killed upwards of 10,000 men, and took more priſoners than they had men in the army. The Engliſh loſt only the duke of York, the earl of Suffolk, a few knights, and 400 private men. In 1417, the king, to enable himſelf to carry on the war, pledged his crown for 100,000 marks, and part of his jewels for 10,000 pounds; then landing at Beville in Normandy, he reduced Caen, and the next year ſubdued all Normandy. On May 21, 1420, a treaty was concluded at Troye, which was ratified by the ſtates of France. By this treaty the dauphin was diſinherited, and Henry V. married Catharine of France, and was declared regent of that kingdom till the death of Charles VI. when he was to take poſſeſſion of that crown. But notwithſtanding this treaty, the war was continued by the dauphin, and the next year Henry advanced into France with 30,000 men; but while he was marching towards the river Loire, he was ſeized with a pleuritic fever, and was carried to Vincennes, where he expired on the 31ſt of Auguſt, 1422, in the

34th

34th year of his age, after a glorious reign of nine years, four months, and eleven days. His body was conveyed to England, and interred in Weſtminſter-abbey.

The queen dowager, ſome time, after married Owen Tudor, a Welch Gentleman, by whom ſhe had Edmund, the father of Henry, earl of Richmond, who became king of England under the name of Henry VII.

King Henry V. was tall and ſlender, with a long neck, engaging aſpect, and limbs of the moſt elegant turn. He excelled all the youth of that age in agility, and the exerciſe of arms; was hardy, patient, and laborious. His valour was ſuch as no danger could ſtartle, and no difficulty oppoſe: nor was his policy inferior to his courage. He managed the diſſenſions among his enemies with ſuch addreſs, as ſpoke him conſummate in the arts of the cabinet. He was chaſte, temperate, modeſt, and devout, ſcrupulouſly juſt in his adminiſtration, and ſeverely exact in the diſcipline of his army, upon which he knew his glory and ſucceſs in a great meaſure depended. In a word, it muſt be owned, he was without an equal in the arts of war, policy, and government. His great qualities, however, were ſomewhat obſcured by his ambition, and his natural propenſity to cruelty.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1417. April 14. The king ordered Holborn to be paved, it not having been paved before.

1418. A plague broke out in Paris, that carried off 40,000 perſons in three months.

1420. Vines and ſugar-canes were planted this year in Madeira.

1422. The two courts of England and France were held at Paris, and on Whit-Sunday the two kings and queens dined together in public.

HENRY VI.

HENRY VI. was born at Windſor, December 6, 1421, and ſucceeded his father, Henry V. in 1422, when but nine months old, and reigned in England under the tutelage of his uncle Humphrey, duke of Glouceſter, and in France under that of his uncle the duke of Bedford. This unhappy prince was unſucceſsful both at home and abroad. His misfortunes began in France, by the death of his grandfather, Charles VI. not quite two months after the death of his father, king Henry, which gave great advantage to the dauphin, who was

was called Charles VII. and being crowned at Poictiers, diſputed with Henry the crown of France: yet for ſome time the Engliſh continued to have great ſucceſs in that kingdom, and gained the famous battle of Crevant, Vernueille, and Rouvroi; and every thing ſeemed to promiſe the entire poſſeſſion of France, when it was prevented by an unforeſeen blow. A girl, known by the name of Joan of Arc, or the Maid of Orleans, ſuddenly appeared at the head of the French army, and in 1429, made the Engliſh raiſe the ſiege of Orleans. From that moment Henry's intereſt in France declined. However, he was carried to Paris, and crowned there with a double crown, in the cathedral church, on the 17th December, 1430. In 1444, a truce of eighteen months was concluded between the two crowns; after which king Henry married Margaret of Anjou, daughter of Renatus, king of Naples. This was the ſource of many of his misfortunes; for the king being of a mild and eaſy temper, and the queen a high-ſpirited woman, ſhe undertook, with her favourites, to govern the kingdom. The Engliſh were now every where defeated, and in 1441, we had no places left in France but Calais, and the earldom of Guines. Theſe loſſes were principally occaſioned by the civil wars which broke out in England. Richard, duke of York, who deſcended on the

the mother's ſide from Lionel, the ſecond ſon of Edward III. claimed a better right to the crown than Henry, who was deſcended from John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter, the third ſon of the ſame Edward. Henry was defeated, and made priſoner, at St. Alban's, by Richard Plantagenet, duke of York, on the 31ſt of May, 1455, and a ſecond time at the battle of Northampton, on the 19th of July, 1460. The parliament then determined, that Henry ſhould keep the crown, and be ſucceeded by the duke of York: but queen Margaret afterwards raiſed an army in the North, and gained the battle of Wakefield, December 30, 1460, in which the duke of York was killed, and her huſband delivered. This turned the ſcale, and ſunk the intereſt of the houſe of York. However, Edward, earl of March, the ſon of Richard duke of York, revived the quarrel, and gained a bloody battle at Mortimer's Croſs, near Ludlow. In ſhort, the earl of March, after ſeveral engagements, was proclaimed king, by the name of Edward IV. by means of the earl of Warwick, called the Setter-up, and Puller-down, of kings.

Henry VI. was of a hale conſtitution, naturally inſenſible of affliction, and hackneyed in the viciſſitudes of fortune. He was totally free from cruelty and revenge; on the contrary, he frequently ſuſtained perſonal

Lady Elizabeth Grey, at the Feet of Edw.d the 4.th

ſonal indignities of the groſſeſt nature, without diſcovering the leaſt mark of reſentment. He was chaſte, pious, compaſſionate, and charitable, and ſo inoffenſive, that the biſhop who was his confeſſor for ten years, declared, that, in all that time, he had never committed any ſin that required penance or rebuke. In a word, he would have adorned a cloiſter, though he diſgraced a crown; and was rather reſpectable for thoſe vices he wanted, than for the virtues he poſſeſſed. He founded the college of Eton, near Windſor, and King's College, in Cambridge, for the reception of thoſe ſcholars who had begun their ſtudies at Eton.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1431. May 30. Joan of Arc, the maid of Orleans, was burnt for a witch at Roan.

1434. A great froſt, which laſted ten weeks, ſo that the Thames was frozen over below bridge as far as Graveſend.

1437. A great dearth, when wheat was ſold for 2s. 6d. the buſhel, and bread made of fern roots and ivy berries.

1453. This year was the firſt lord mayor's ſhow at London.

1459. Engraving and etching on copper invented.

EDWARD IV.

EDWARD IV. earl of March, was the ſon of Richard, duke of York, and diſputed the crown with Henry VI. who was of the houſe of Lancaſter. Between theſe two families a great number of battles were fought, with different ſucceſs; but at length Edward obtained the crown, March 5, 1461, by gaining a ſignal victory over Henry VI. whom he forced to fly into Scotland, with Margaret of Anjou, his conſort. He afterwards gained another victory over the ſame unhappy prince, who, after his defeat, came into England in diſguiſe, hoping to conceal himſelf there, till he ſhould have an opportunity of eſcaping by ſea. But unfortunately being diſcovered, and ſeized at Waddington-hall, in Lancaſhire, whilſt he was at dinner, he was conducted to London, with his legs tied under a horſe's belly, and then confined in the Tower. The earl of Warwick, who had chiefly contributed to raiſe Edward to the throne, was employed by that prince to negotiate a marriage for him in France. In the mean time Edward marrying Elizabeth, the widow of Sir John Grey, with whom the earl was in love, that nobleman was ſo exaſperated, that he raiſed a rebellion, in which he twice defeated the king's

king's forces, and afterwards took his majeſty priſoner, whom he confined in Middleham caſtle; from whence he eſcaped, and joined Lord Haſtings in Lancaſhire, returned to London, when another battle enſued, and Warwick being defeated, was obliged to fly into France; but ſoon after, landing at Dartmouth with a few troops, he ſoon encreaſed them to 60,000 men; upon which Edward alſo raiſed a numerous army at Nottingham, but, as his enemies were advancing, the cry of king Henry being raiſed in his camp, Edward fled and eſcaped into Flanders. Warwick then took Henry out of the Tower, and cauſed him to be acknowledged king of England. But Edward afterwards returning with a ſmall force, was received at London with acclamations of joy; and Henry, after ſeven months phantom of ſovereignty, was again confined in the Tower. Edward then marched againſt the earl of Warwick, and routed his army in a great battle near Barnet, where the earl himſelf was ſlain with his brother, the marquis of Montacute, and 17,000 of his men.

Some time after, queen Margaret having aſſembled an army, king Edward defeated her, and took her priſoner with her ſon, prince Edward, who was ſoon after maſſacred, in the 18th year of his age; and, ſoon after, his father king Henry was mur-

dered in the Tower, or, as others ſay, died with grief, in the 50th year of his age. Queen Margaret, after being four years confined, was ranſomed by her father for 50,000 crowns. Edward cauſed his brother, the duke of Clarence, to be drowned in a butt of ſack. Edward, being now at peace, ſpent his time in indolence and debauchery. His favourite miſtreſs was Jane Shore, wife to a citizen of London. He died at Weſtminſter, on April 9, 1483, in the 42d year of his age, and the 23d of his reign.

Edward IV. was a prince of the moſt elegant perſon, and inſinuating addreſs; endowed with the utmoſt fortitude and intrepidity; poſſeſſed of uncommon ſagacity and penetration; but, like all his anceſtors, was brutally cruel and vindictive, perfidious, lewd, perjured, and rapacious; without one liberal thought, without one ſentiment of humanity.

He was interred at Windſor, in the new chapel, the foundation of which he himſelf had laid.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1461. A tradeſman was executed for ſaying he would make his ſon heir to the crown, alluding to the ſign of his houſe.

1463. The importation of woollen cloths, laces, and ribbons, and other articles manufactured in England, ſtrictly forbidden.

1471.

1471. Printing was firſt brought into England by one Caxon, a mercer; and the firſt printing-preſs was ſet up in Iſlip's chapel, Weſtminſter-abbey, under the patronage of the abbot.

1472. A plague broke out in England this year, which carried off more than the fifteen years war.

1478. There was another great plague in England, which began in September, and ended in November.

EDWARD V.

EDWARD V. eldeſt ſon of Edward IV. was born in 1470, and ſucceeded his father in 1483, at 12 years of age. He was at Ludlow when his father died, but being ſent for to London, he, on the 4th of May, received the oaths of the principal nobility; and his uncle Richard, duke of Glouceſter, was made protector of the king and kingdom. He obliged the queen to deliver up to him the duke of York, the king's brother, and ſent them both to the Tower, under pretence of their waiting there till every thing was prepared for the coronation. Mean while the duke of Glouceſter, by the aſſiſtance of the duke of Buckingham, Sir John Shaw, lord mayor of London, and Dr. Shaw, his brother, had the two young princes declared illegitimate, and then cauſed himſelf

ſelf to be acknowledged king of England, pretending to accept of the crown with reluctance; though he had put to death lord Haſtings, for no other crime but his being warmly attached to the young king: however, as that nobleman was greatly beloved by the people, Glouceſter pretended that his ambition and ſorceries endangered the kingdom. The queen and Jane Shore were accuſed as his colleagues, and the latter was taken into cuſtody, but ſoon after releaſed, on doing penance. Sir Robert Brakenbury, lieutenant of the Tower, refuſing to comply with Richard's cruel deſigns, he, for one night only, gave the command of that fortreſs to Sir James Tyrrell, and he procured two villains, who, in the dead of the, night, entered the chamber where the princes lay, and ſmothered them in bed. Thus died Edward V. having reigned only two months and twelve days.

RICHARD III.

RICHARD III. king of England, ſurnamed *Crook Back*, was the brother of Edward IV. and raiſed himſelf to the throne by a ſeries of the moſt inhuman murders. Henry VI. and the young prince his ſon, with ſeveral noblemen of the firſt rank, died while he was duke of Glouceſter, to prepare

The Queen Dowager of Edward the 4th parting with the Duke of York.

pare the way for his uſurping the throne from Edward V. He was proclaimed king on the 20th of June, 1483, in the 32d year of his age, but delayed the ceremony of his coronation till the 6th of July, and ſoon after cauſed Edward V. and his brother, whom he had before declared to be baſtards, to be ſmothered in the Tower. The ſame year, having broke his promiſe to the duke of Buckingham, who had been greatly inſtrumental in placing him on the throne, that nobleman took up arms againſt him, in order to aſſiſt Henry, earl of Richmond, the laſt branch of the houſe of Lancaſter, to obtain the crown; but the duke being betrayed by a fellow who had been his ſervant, for the ſake of a very great reward offered for apprehending him, he was beheaded at Saliſbury, without any legal proceſs. However, the earl of Richmond, obtaining aſſiſtance from the duke of Brittany, ſailed from St. Maloes on the 12th of October, with 5000 men and 40 ſhips; but his fleet being diſperſed, he returned to Brittany, and afterwards to France. Richard, in the mean time, ſacrificed many perſons to his revenge, and ſent Sir Ralph Aſhton into the weſtern counties, with power to execute upon the ſpot all ſuch perſons whom he even ſuſpected to be guilty of high treaſon; and finding that the earl of Richmond founded his projects on the hopes of marrying Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV. he

reſolved to marry that princeſs himſelf, though he was already married to the widow of Edward prince of Wales, the ſon of Henry VI. whom he himſelf murdered; and therefore now, in order to obtain Elizabeth, he is ſaid to have poiſoned his queen. The earl of Richmond, however, landed in Wales, with 2000 men, which increaſed to 5000, and with this ſmall army engaged the king's forces, which conſiſted of 13,000 men, at Boſworth, in Leiceſterſhire: but the earl being joined by the Lord Stanley and his brother, with freſh troops, he gained a complete victory; when Richard, ſeeing the day was loſt, ruſhed into the midſt of his enemies, and died with his ſword in his hand. The crown being found after the battle, was placed on the head of the earl of Richmond; and Richard's body was taken up entirely naked, and covered with blood and dirt, in which condition it was thrown acroſs a horſe, carried to Leiceſter, and interred without the leaſt ceremony. Thus fell king Richard, on the 22d of Auguſt, 1485, in the 34th year of his age, after an infamous reign of two years. He was buried in the Grey-friars church at Leiceſter.

Richard III. if any regard is to be paid to the generality of our hiſtorians, was, through the whole courſe of his life, reſtrained by no principal of juſtice or humanity; and it appears that he endeavoured to maintain the crown by the ſame fraud and violence by which he obtained it.

He

He certainly poſſeſſed an uncommon ſolidity of judgment, a natural fund of eloquence, the moſt acute penetration, and ſuch courage as no danger could diſmay. He was dark, ſilent, and reſerved; and ſo much maſter of diſſimulation, that it was almoſt impoſſible to dive into his real ſentiments, when he wanted to conceal his deſigns. His ſtature was ſmall, his aſpect cloudy, ſevere, and forbidding; one of his arms was withered, and one ſhoulder higher than the other, from which circumſtances of deformity he acquired the epithet of *Crook-back*. He was the laſt king of the Plantagenet race, who had ſwayed the ſceptre ever ſince Henry II.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1483. Poſt-horſes and ſtages were eſtabliſhed.

1483. There was an inundation of the river Severn this year, which laſted ten days, and men, women, and children, were carried away in their beds by the violence of it.

HENRY VII.

HENRY VII. king of England, was the ſon of Edmund Tudor, earl of Richmond, and of Margaret of the houſe of Lancaſter. He was crowned on the 30th of October, 1485. He married Elizabeth, daughter of

of Edward IV. by which the claims of the houſes of York and Lancaſter were united. However, freſh troubles broke out, and the enemies of Henry attempted twice to dethrone him, by ſetting up two pretenders: the firſt was one Lambert Simnel, a baker's ſon, who aſſumed the title of Earl of Warwick, and pretended to be the ſon of the duke of Clarence, brother to Edward IV. but being defeated and taken priſoner, was made king Henry's turnſpit. The other was an adventurer, named Perkin Warbeck, who perſonated Richard duke of York, Edward the Fifth's brother, who was murdered in the Tower, and being at length taken priſoner, was hanged at Tyburn. Henry aſſiſted the emperor Maximilian againſt Charles VIII. of France; he made war on the Scots; inſtituted the band of gentlemen penſioners; built the chapel adjoining to Weſtminſter-abbey, which ſtill bears his name; and founded ſeveral colleges, by which he obtained the character of a pious prince, and a friend to learning, though he was remarkable for his avarice, and grievouſly oppreſſing the people by numberleſs exactions. He died at Richmond palace, which he had cauſed to be erected, the 22d of April, 1509, aged 52, in the 24th year of his reign, and was ſucceeded by his ſecond ſon, Henry VIII. He alſo left two daughters, Margaret, who was married to James IV. king of Scotland, and Mary, who married the French king Lewis XII.

Henry

Henry VII. was tall, ſtraight, and well-ſhaped, though ſlender; of a grave aſpect, and ſaturnine complexion. He inherited a natural fund of ſagacity, which was improved by ſtudy and experience; nor was he deficient in perſonal bravery, or political courage. He was cool, cloſe, cunning, dark, diſtruſtful, and deſigning; and of all the princes who had ſat upon the Engliſh throne, the moſt ſordid, ſelfiſh, and ignoble. At the ſame time, it muſt be owned, he was a wiſe legiſlator, chaſte, temperate, aſſiduous in the exerciſe of religious duties; decent in his deportment, and exact in the adminiſtration of juſtice, when his own private intereſt was not concerned; though he frequently uſed religion and juſtice as cloaks for perfidy and oppreſſion. His ſoul was continually actuated by two ruling paſſions, equally baſe and unkingly, namely, the fear of loſing his crown, and the deſire of amaſſing riches; and theſe motives influenced his whole conduct.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1485. Oct. 30, King Henry, on the day of his coronation, firſt inſtituted the yeomen of the guards.

1485. A new diſeaſe, called the ſweating ſickneſs, raged this year; it began in September, and, though it continued little more than a month, carried off many thouſands; particu-

particularly in London, two mayors ſucceſſively, and ſix aldermen died.

1487. The court of Star-chamber was inſtituted.

1488. The Cape of Good Hope was diſcovered.

1489. Maps and ſea-charts firſt brought into England by Bartholomew Columbus.

1491. Greek firſt introduced into England.

1492. America was diſcovered this year by Chriſtopher Columbus, a Genoeſe, Oct. 11.

1497. The Eaſt Indies were diſcovered this year by a Portugueſe; and Florida, Jamaica, Porto Rico, Trinidad, and Newfoundland, by Cabot, a Venetian.

1497. The Weſt Indies diſcovered by Columbus.

1500. May. There happened ſo great a plague in England, that it occaſioned the king and court to remove to Calais, and ſwept off upwards of 30,000 people in London.

1504. This year, Henry the Seventh's chapel, at the eaſt end of Weſtminſter abbey, was built.

1505. Shillings firſt coined in England.

1507. The Iſland of Madagaſcar diſcovered by the Portugueſe.

1507. The Dutch, by treaty, excluded from fiſhing on the coaſt of England.

1507. A ſweating ſickneſs raged this year.

1509. King Henry, a little before his death, publiſhed a general pardon to all his ſubjects, releaſed all debtors out of priſon, who

who did not owe more than forty ſhillings to any one man, paying their creditors out of his own purſe; and by his will commanded his ſucceſſor to make reſtitution to all men whom he had wronged by his extortions, to which his ſon paid no great regard.

He left behind him 1,800,000 pounds which he had extorted from his ſubjects; but, to make ſome amends, he converted the palace of the Savoy into an hoſpital, and built ſome religious houſes.

HENRY VIII.

HENRY VIII. king of England, was born June 28, 1491, and ſucceeded his father Henry VII. on April 22, 1509. His marriage with Catharine of Arragon, relict of his brother Arthur, was ſolemnized the beginning of June, as was the coronation of both king and queen on the 24th of the ſame month. He joined the emperor Maximilian againſt Lewis XII. king of France; defeated the French at the battle of the Spurs, in 1513, and took Terouenne and Tournay. At his return to England, he marched againſt the Scots, and defeated them at Flodden, September 9, after an obſtinate and bloody battle, in which James IV. of Scotland was ſlain. In 1514, Henry VIII. concluded a treaty of peace with Lewis XII. and gave his ſiſter Mary in marriage. He wrote a book againſt Luther,

Luther *Of the Seven Sacraments*, &c. It was preſented to Pope Leo X. in full conſiſtory, who, for this ſervice done the church, beſtowed on Henry and his ſucceſſors the title of *Defender of the Faith*. This title being afterwards confirmed by parliament, the kings of England have borne it ever ſince.

A war breaking out between the emperor Charles V. and the French king Francis I. Henry at firſt took the part of the emperor, but afterwards, at the ſolicitation of cardinal Wolſey, contracted a ſtrict friendſhip with Francis, and in 1528 laboured to procure the deliverance of Pope Clement VII. By the aſſiſtance of Wolſey, he, in 1533, divorced Catharine of Arragon, and married Anne Boleyn, on which he was excommunicated by the Pope. Henry, enraged at this excommunication, aboliſhed the papal authority in England; refuſed to pay to the ſee of Rome his annual tribute; ordered the diſſolution of monaſteries, obliged the clergy to acknowledge him head of the church, and thoſe who refuſed were either baniſhed or put to death: among theſe laſt were, the learned Sir Tho. Moore, lord Chancellor of England, and Fiſher, biſhop of Rocheſter. The reformation thus begun in this kingdom, was completed under the reign of Elizabeth. Some time after being charmed with the beauty of Jane Seymour, he cauſed Anne Boleyn to be beheaded: but Jane dying in childbed of prince Edward, he married Ann of Cleves, whom

he afterwards divorced. He then married Catharine Howard, the duke of Norfolk's daughter, whom he cauſed to be beheaded, under pretence that he had not found her a virgin; but his real motive was that of having conceived a violent paſſion for Catharine Parr, a young widow of great beauty. A war breaking out between him and the Scots, who were aſſiſted by the French, Henry, in 1545, took Bologne from the latter, and burnt Leith and Edinburgh. He founded ſix new biſhoprics, viz. Weſtminſter, Oxford, Peterborough, Briſtol, Cheſter, and Glouceſter; all which, except Weſtminſter, are ſtill epiſcopal ſees. He united Wales to England, and died January 29, 1547, aged 56, after a reign of thirty-eight years, and was interred at Windſor, with idle proceſſions, and childiſh pageantry, which in thoſe days paſſed for real taſte and magnificence.

Henry VIII. before he became corpulent, was a prince of a goodly perſonage, and commanding aſpect, rather imperious than dignified. He excelled in all the exerciſes of youth, and poſſeſſed a good underſtanding, which was not much improved by the nature of his education. In the firſt year of his reign, his pride and vanity ſeemed to domineer over all his other paſſions; though from the beginning he was impetuous, headſtrong, impatient of contradiction and advice. He was raſh, arrogant, prodigal, vain-glorious, pedantic, and ſuperſtitious. He delighted in

pomp and pageantry, the baubles of a weak mind. His paſſions, ſoothed by adulation, rejected all reſtraint; and, as he was an utter ſtranger to the finer feelings of the ſoul, he gratified them at the expence of juſtice and humanity, without remorſe or compunction. From the abject compliance of his ſubjects, he acquired the moſt deſpotic authority over them, and became rapacious, arbitrary, froward, fretful, and ſo cruel, that he ſeemed to delight in their blood.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1509. Gardening was this year introduced into England from the Netherlands, from whence vegetables were before imported.

1512. Sir Edward Howard was appointed the firſt lord high admiral.

1512. A royal navy-office was eſtabliſhed.

1516. So great a froſt in England, that carts paſſed over the Thames on the ice.

1517. The ſweating ſickneſs raged this year, uſually carrying off the patient in three hours.

1517. The reformation in religion was begun by Martin Luther.

1518. New Spain diſcovered by Fernandez Cortez.

1521. Muſkets were firſt invented this year.

1521. There was ſo great a dearth in England, that wheat was ſold at 20 ſhillings per quarter.

1521. The ſea overflowed the dikes of Holland, drowned 72 villages, and above 100,000 people.

1523. The College of Phyſicians in London was inſtituted.

1525. There was ſo ſevere a froſt, after great winds and rains, that many loſt the uſe of their limbs, and ſome periſhed with cold.

1525. Whitehall built by cardinal Wolſey.

1529. The name of Proteſtants began.

1530. St. James's palace built.

1530. Secretary of State's office inſtituted.

1535. Braſs cannon firſt caſt in England.

1537. The Bible, being tranſlated and printed in Engliſh, was this year ordered to be ſet up in churches.

1537. Religious houſes were diſſolved.

1538. Leaden pipes for the conveyance of water, invented.

1542. A great mortality, and ſo great a drought, that ſmall rivers were dried up; the Thames was ſo ſhallow, that the ſalt water flowed above London bridge.

1543. Mortars and cannons were caſt in iron, the firſt that were ever made in England.

EDWARD VI.

EDWARD VI. king of England, and the only ſon of Henry VIII. by Jane Seymour, was born October 12, 1537, and aſcended the throne at nine years of age, at which time he was well ſkilled in the Latin and French tongues, and had obtained ſome knowledge of the Greek, Italian, and Spaniſh. His perſon was very beautiful; he had great

ſweetneſs of diſpoſition, and was remarkable for his piety and humanity. He was proclaimed January 31, 1547, and crowned February 20. He was committed to the care of ſixteen perſons, whom Henry had nominated regents of the kingdom, the principal of whom was the earl of Hertford, the king's uncle by the mother's ſide, who was ſoon after created duke of Somerſet. The young queen of Scotland was demanded in marriage for king Edward; but the ſame propoſal being made by France, in behalf of the dauphin, ſhe was ſent into that kingdom; on which the duke of Somerſet invaded Scotland, and routed the Scots army at Muſſleburg. The great power of the duke of Somerſet raiſed him many enemies, the chief of whom was his brother, Thomas lord Seymour; and articles of accuſation being exhibited againſt him, he was attainted in parliament, condemned, and beheaded, without being brought to an open trial. However, the duke of Somerſet himſelf was ſome time after impeached, and charged with a deſign to ſeize the king, and to impriſon the earl of Warwick: for this he was condemned, and the young king being in a manner forced to ſign the ſentence, he was executed on the 22d of January, 1551. The earl of Warwick, now duke of Northumberland, ſucceeded to the duke of Somerſet's power, and at length, on the king's being taken ill of the meaſles, married lord Guilford Dudley, his fourth

fourth ſon, to the lady Jane Grey, eldeſt daughter to the duke of Suffolk, and perſuaded Edward to ſettle the crown on her, his ſiſters, Mary and Elizabeth, having been both declared illegitimate during the life of their father; and the prince, hoping to ſave the reformation from impending deſtruction, appointed her his ſucceſſor, and ſoon after died of a conſumption, July 6, 1553, in the 16th year of his age, having reigned ſix years, five months, and nine days. He continued firmly attached to thoſe principles of the reformation which he had imbibed while young, and which made a great progreſs in his reign. He confirmed his father's grant of Chriſt's and St. Bartholomew's hoſpitals, and founded Bridewell and St. Thomas's hoſpitals. He alſo founded ſeveral ſchools, which were moſtly endowed out of the church-lands.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1548. There was a great plague in London.

1549. Anabaptiſts came into England.

1549. Horſe-guards inſtituted.

1551. A ſweating-ſickneſs raged throughout England.

1551. An earthquake happened in Surry.

1552. Crowns and half-crowns were firſt coined.

1553. This was ſuch a plentiful year, that a barrel of beer, with the cock, were ſold for ſixpence, and four great loaves for one penny,

Edward kept a journal, which is preſerved in the Britiſh Muſeum, in which he regularly entered all the important tranſactions of his reign.

MARY.

MARY, queen of England, daughter of Henry VIII. and Catharine of Arragon, was born the 18th of February, 1515. On her father's marrying Anne Boleyn, ſhe was declared illegitimate. After the death of Edward VI. in 1553, lady Jane Grey was proclaimed queen of England; but Mary promiſing that no change ſhould be made in religion, obtained the crown, and ſome time after, lady Jane, with the lord Dudley, and other perſons of quality, were beheaded. Soon after Mary's acceſſion to the throne, ſhe married Philip II. afterwards king of Spain, ſon of the emperor Charles V. who was then living; and, in violation of the moſt ſacred promiſes, began a dreadful perſecution of the Proteſtants, which was carried on by Bonner, biſhop of London, and Gardiner, biſhop of Wincheſter. Great numbers of perſons ſuffered martyrdom at the ſtake, among which were Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Hooper, and Ferrar; and all the priſons in the kingdom were crowded with theſe pious ſufferers, who choſe to ſubmit to perſecution, rather than violate their conſciences. Even the princeſs Elizabeth

was

was cloſely watched, and obliged to conceal her religious ſentiments.

Amidſt theſe dreadful proceedings, Mary was far from being happy; a continual diſagreement with her huſband, who was younger than ſhe, and of whom ſhe was paſſionately fond, with the loſs of Calais, which was taken by the French, threw her into a complication of diſorders, of which ſhe died, without iſſue, the 17th of November, 1558, in the 43d year of her age, after a bloody reign of five years, four months, and eleven days.

In the four years in which the perſecution laſted, near 300 perſons were put to death; viz. one archbiſhop, four biſhops, 21 divines, eight gentlemen, 84 artificers, 100 huſbandmen, ſervants, and labourers, 26 wives, 20 widows, nine virgins, two boys, and two infants; beſides which, ſeveral died in priſon, and many were whipped or otherwiſe cruelly treated.

The characteriſtics of Mary were bigotry and revenge; added to this, ſhe was proud, imperious, froward, avaricious, and wholly deſtitute of every agreeable qualification. She was buried at Weſtminſter, in the chapel of her grandfather, Henry VII.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1555. Coaches firſt uſed in England.
1558. July. Two little towns near Nottingham,

tingham were beat down by thunder, and hail-ſtones fell which were 15 inches in circumference.

ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH, daughter of Henry VIII, and Anne Boleyn, was born September 8, 1533, and aſcended the throne November 17, 1558. This princeſs was crowned with great ſolemnity, on the 15th of January, 1559.

As there were many troubles then in foreign ſtates, chiefly on account of religion, ſhe aſſiſted the Proteſtants in Scotland, France, and the Low Countries, againſt their reſpective ſovereigns, or the governing party, by whom they were cruelly oppreſſed and perſecuted. The queen of Scots, and the dauphin her huſband, had, by order of Henry II. of France, taken the arms of England, with the titles of ſovereigns of that kingdom: this made Elizabeth conſider Mary as a dangerous rival, whereupon, in 1560, ſhe entered into a treaty with the Scotch mal-contents, in purſuance of which, ſhe ſent an army into Scotland, to break the meaſures of her enemies, which had the deſired ſucceſs. Some time after, ſhe aſſiſted the Huguenots in France. By theſe means Elizabeth kept both France and Scotland ſo employed, that they could find no opportunity to put their ſchemes in execution of dethroning her. She always kept a good fleet in readineſs againſt any invaſion,

vaſion, and ſecured more and more the affections of her ſubjects, whom ſhe looked upon as her only ſupport. The queen of Scots, being defeated in 1568 by the forces raiſed by the mal-contents in that kingdom, was obliged to fly into England, where the queen kept her priſoner many years.

In 1569, a rebellion broke out in the North, under the earls of Weſtmoreland and Northumberland, and Dacres, a northern gentleman, who intended to have ſet Mary queen of Scots on the throne, and to have reſtored the popiſh religion. This rebellion queen Elizabeth ſuppreſſed, and the earl of Northumberland was beheaded, as was alſo the duke of Norfolk in 1572, who had been releaſed out of the Tower, and engaged again in a conſpiracy againſt the queen.

The year 1571 paſſed chiefly in a negociation for a marriage between queen Elizabeth and the duke of Anjou, ſecond ſon to Catharine de Medicis, and brother to Charles IX. of France. Both Charles and Elizabeth found their account in this negociation, though neither of them intended it ſhould take effect. Charles's deſign was to amuſe the Proteſtants, particularly the Huguenots, with whom he had made a perfidious peace, till he had drawn them into the ſnare, in order to deſtroy them by treachery, when he found it difficult to do it by open force. Queen Elizabeth entered into the negociation

of

of the match to pleaſe her miniſters, who were continually preſſing her to marry, in order to cut off all hopes from the queen of Scots, and to diſhearten her enemies. However, a defenſive alliance was concluded between the two crowns. Charles died, and was ſucceeded by the duke of Anjou, by the name of Henry III. with whom queen Elizabeth renewed the league between the two crowns, but under-hand ſupplied the prince of Condé with money for the Huguenots.

Some time after, another negociation was carried on for a marriage between her and the duke of Alençon, now duke of Anjou, Henry's brother, even to the ſigning of her marriage articles, and the duke came over in perſon; but it was all broke off on a ſudden.

In 1577, ſhe aſſiſted the people of the Low Countries, who were grievouſly oppreſſed by the duke of Alva, the king of Spain's general, and who was endeavouring to extirpate the Proteſtants; ſhe lent them 100,000l. ſterling, to enable them to carry on the war. The next year ſeveral companies of volunteers were formed in England, who went over to ſerve the States, with the queen's approbation. Some years after, ſhe ſent a good body of forces, under the earl of Leiceſter, but he not being agreeable to the States, was recalled, and lord Willoughby was appointed general of the Engliſh forces in his room: this war at laſt concluded in the total revolt of ſeven of theſe provinces from the dominion

dominion of Spain, which now make the moſt conſiderable republic in the world. The Pope excommunicated the queen; and the king of Spain and the duke of Guiſe were in a league with the Pope to invade England, dethrone Elizabeth, and ſet up the queen of Scots in her room. In the mean time, ſeveral plots were ſet on foot by the popiſh emiſſaries to take away her life, for which ſeveral prieſts, Jeſuits, and others, were executed. In 1585, the queen ſent Sir Francis Drake to America, who took ſeveral places in the Spaniſh Weſt Indies. In 1586, ſhe made an alliance with the king of Scotland, for their mutual defence, and the ſecurity of the Proteſtant religion. This year died the learned and ingenious Sir Philip Sydney, of a wound he received in a battle in the Low Countries.

Babington's conſpiracy, in which were engaged ſeveral popiſh prieſts from the ſeminaries abroad, was diſcovered; and they were, to the number of fourteen, arraigned, condemned, and executed. It was laid for an invaſion, to kill Elizabeth, free the queen of Scots, and ſet her on the throne. As the queen of Scots appeared, by letters and otherwiſe, to have been concerned in this conſpiracy, it was reſolved now to proſecute her on an act of parliament made the preceding year, whereby the perſon for whom, or by whom, any thing ſhould be attempted againſt the queen, was liable to death. Commiſſioners

miſſioners were accordingly ſent to try her at Fotheringay caſtle, in Northamptonſhire, (where ſhe was then in cuſtody) who paſſed ſentence upon her, on October 25. Four days after, it was approved and confirmed by parliament; on December 6, it was proclaimed through the whole kingdom; and on February 8th following, the ſentence was executed upon her in the hall of the caſtle, by ſevering her head from her body, which ſhe ſuffered with great calmneſs and reſolution.

In 1588, the king of Spain, encouraged by Pope Sixtus V. ſent a great fleet, to which they had given the title of the Invincible Armada, to invade England. It conſiſted of 130 great ſhips, 20 caravels, and 10 ſalves, having above 20,000 ſoldiers on board, with ſeamen, ammunition, and proviſion in proportion. To oppoſe which, 20,000 men were diſperſed along the ſouthern coaſts; an army of 22,000 foot, and 1000 horſe, was encamped at Tilbury, where the queen reviewed them, and made a very engaging ſpeech to them. There was another army of 34,000 foot, and 2000 horſe, to guard the queen's perſon. She fitted out a conſiderable fleet, under the command of lord Howard, as admiral, Drake, Hawkins, and Forbiſher, vice-admiral; and ſent Seymour, with forty Engliſh and Dutch ſhips, to the coaſt of Flanders, to hinder the prince of Parma from joining the Spaniſh fleet.

On

On the 19th of July, the Spaniſh fleet, commanded by the duke of Medina Sidonia, entered the channel, when the Engliſh fleet kept cloſe to them, and ſoon took ſome of their ſhips. On July 24th there was a briſk engagement. On the 27th the Spaniſh fleet came to an anchor off Calais, expecting in vain the prince of Parma to put to ſea with his army, and make a deſcent on England, as it had been agreed. The Engliſh fleet, now conſiſting of 140 ſhips, followed them; and the Engliſh admiral, in the night, ſent eight fire-ſhips among them, which ſo terrified them, that they cut their cables, and put to ſea in the utmoſt confuſion; the Engliſh admiral took the Galeaſs, and the commander of it was ſlain. In ſhort, the whole fleet was diſperſed, and the Spaniards reſolved to make the beſt of their way home. Of this prodigious armament, only fifty-three ſhips returned to Spain, and thoſe in a ſhattered condition. Queen Elizabeth went in ſtate to St. Paul's, to return Almighty God thanks for this great victory.

In 1594, Roderic Lopez, a Jew, who was the queen's phyſician, two Portugueſe, and Patrick Cullen, an Iriſhman, were bribed by the Spaniſh governors of the Netherlands to take her off by poiſon; but the plot being diſcovered, the conſpirators were ſeized and executed; as were Edmund York and Richard Williams, the next year, for undertaking to commit the ſame crime, on the promiſe of

40,000 crowns from the ſaid Spaniſh governors.

In 1696, the queen ſent a fleet and army under Howard, the earl of Eſſex, and Sir Walter Raleigh, to the coaſts of Spain, which plundered Cadiz, burnt the merchant ſhips at Port Real, took and deſtroyed thirteen Spaniſh men of war, and did other conſiderable damage. In 1598, Henry IV. of France, having made a ſeparate peace with the king of Spain, queen Elizabeth and the States entered into a new treaty to carry on the war againſt that monarch by themſelves. On the 25th of February, 1601, Robert Devereux, earl of Eſſex, was beheaded.

Queen Elizabeth died on March 24, 1603, in the 70th year of her age, and the 45th of her reign, after having named the Scottiſh monarch for her ſucceſſor. She was interred with great magnificence in the chapel of Henry VII. at Weſtminſter.

The papiſts repreſent Elizabeth as a monſter of cruelty, avarice, and laſciviouſneſs; which is not to be wondered at, conſidering her ſeverity to them. It is, indeed, difficult to excuſe her beheading Mary queen of Scots, and the ſeverity ſhe ſometimes made uſe of, both againſt the papiſts and the proteſtant diſſenters. She, however, underſtood the art of reigning in an eminent degree; and her reign was the ſchool of able miniſters, great ſtateſman, and diſtinguiſhed warriors. She underſtood the Greek, Latin, French, Spaniſh,

Spaniſh and Dutch languages; had a deep and penetrating, a noble and elevated mind. Her converſation was ſprightly and agreeable, her judgment ſolid, her apprehenſion acute, her application indefatigable, and her courage invincible. Yet her glorious reign, on which Providence for a long time poured innumerable bleſſings, ended in a moſt diſmal melancholy, which ſome are of opinion was occaſioned by the death of the earl of Eſſex. This queen makes a conſiderable figure among the learned ladies. Beſides variety of other things, ſhe wrote a Comment on Plato, and tranſlated into Latin two of the orations of Iſocrates, and a play of Euripides, &c.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1560. June 15. The ſpire of St. Paul's, in London, was burnt down by lightning.

1563. Knives firſt made in England.

1565. July 16. A violent ſtorm of thunder and hail happened, which deſtroyed 500 acres of corn in Chelmsford.

1566. June 7. The foundation of the Royal Exchange, in London, was laid by Sir Thomas Greſham.

1568. A new tranſlation of the Bible was publiſhed.

1571. Feb. 17. A great earthquake in Herefordſhire, when Marcly hill was removed from the place where it ſtood, and con-

tinued in motion two days; it carried along the trees, hedges, ſheep, &c. and overturned Kyneton chapel.

1574. There was a great dearth in England.

1583. Jan. 13. An earthquake in Dorſetſhire, which removed a conſiderable piece of ground.

1588. The art of making paper was introduced into England this year.

1590. Teleſcopes, and the art of weaving ſtockings, were invented this year.

1592. Sept. The Thames was almoſt dry.

1593. This year above 28,000 people died of the plague in London.

1596. There was an earthquake in Kent.

1597. Watches firſt brought into England from Germany.

1597. A great plague in London and its ſuburbs, which ſwept off 17,890 perſons.

JAMES I.

JAMES VI. of Scotland, and Firſt of England, ſon of Henry Stuart, and Mary queen of Scotland, was born June 19, 1566, and was raiſed to the Engliſh throne in 1603, after the death of queen Elizabeth, who had nominated him for her ſucceſſor, as being her neareſt relation; for he was deſcended from the eldeſt ſon of king Henry VII. He united Scotland to England, and took the title of King of Great Britain. In 1604, he ordered all

all popiſh prieſts to leave England, on pain of death.

In 1605, a plot was diſcovered of a deſign to blow up the parliament houſe, 36 barrels of gun-powder being put in a cellar under the lords houſe, which had been hired for that purpoſe, and covered over with coals, billets, and faggots. Guy Faux, who was to have ſet fire to the train, was diſcovered in a cloak and boots, with a dark lanthorn, tinder-box, and matches in his pocket. Himſelf and his accomplices were executed in January following; as were, not long after, Oldcorn and Garnet, two jeſuits, for concealing and abetting the plot.

In 1606, king James cauſed the oath of allegiance to be drawn up; and, in 1621, ſummoned a parliament, in which were formed the two parties called Whigs and Tories. He ſuffered the Dutch to take Amboyna, and to maſſacre the Engliſh inhabitants, without ſhewing his reſentment. He not only ſuffered the nation to fall into contempt, but put to death the brave Sir Walter Raleigh, for his ſucceſsful expeditions againſt the Spaniards. He was educated by the famous Buchanan, and prided himſelf for his ſkill in Latin and ſchool divinity; though the works he publiſhed prove that he was but an indifferent writer. Theſe works principally conſiſt of ſeveral tracts, which are printed in one volume in folio, and contain an attempt to prove that monarchs have a

right to be abſolute, and independent of their ſubjects; on the heinous ſin of taking tobacco; on witchcraft, &c. Mr. Walpole obſerves, that "There is not the leaſt ſuſpicion that the folio, under the name of James I. is not of his own compoſition; for though Roger Aſcham," ſays he, "may have corrected or aſſiſted periods of his illuſtrious pupil, no body can imagine that Buchanan dictated a word of the Demonologia, or of the polite treatiſe, entitled, 'A Counterblaſt toTobacco.' Quotations, puns, ſcripture, witticiſms, ſuperſtition, oaths, vanity, prerogative, and pedantry, the ingredients of all his ſacred majeſty's performances, were the pure produce of his own capacity, and deſerving all the incenſe offered to ſuch immenſe erudition by the divines of his age, and the flatterers of his court." He died at Theobald's, March 27, 1625, aged 55, after having reigned 22 years in England, and was ſucceeded by his ſon Charles I..

James I. was, in his ſtature, of the middle ſize, inclining to corpulency; his forehead was high, his beard ſcanty, and his aſpect mean. His addreſs was awkward, and his appearance ſlovenly. There was nothing dignified either in the compoſition of his mind or perſon. In the courſe of his reign he exhibited repeated inſtances of his ridiculous vanity, prejudices, profuſion, folly, and littleneſs of ſoul. All that we can add in his favour is, that he was averſe to cruelty and in-

juſtice; very little addicted to exceſs, temperate in his meals, kind to his ſervants, and even deſirous of acquiring the love of his ſubjects, by granting that as a favour which they claimed as a privilege. His reign, though ignoble to himſelf, was happy to his people, who were enriched by commerce which no war interrupted.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1603. 35,244 perſons died of the plague in London.

1603. The office of maſter of the ceremonies inſtituted.

1604, and 1605. The plague deſtroyed 68,596 perſons in London.

1609. A froſt happened, which laſted four months; the Thames was ſo frozen, that heavy carriages paſſed over it.

1611. Baronets firſt created in England.

1611. The preſent tranſlation of the Bible finiſhed.

1619. The circulation of the blood was confirmed this year by Dr. Harvey.

1620. Copper money was this year firſt uſed in England.

1621. The broad ſilk manufacture from raw ſilk introduced into England.

In the 14th year of this reign, Sir Hugh Middleton, a private citizen of London, ſupplied part of the city with excellent water, conveyed in an aqueduct from Ware

in

in Hertfordſhire, now known by the name of the New River.

CHARLES I.

CHARLES I. king of Great Britain, was born at Dumferling, in Scotland. November 19, 1600. He ſucceeded his father, James I. in 1625, and the very ſame year married Henrietta of France, the daughter of Henry IV. Two years after, he ſent aſſiſtance to the French calviniſts, to prevent the taking of Rochelle; but the Engliſh being defeated, and Rochelle taken, a treaty of peace was concluded between the two crowns. There was nothing but continual ſtruggles between the king, who wanted to aſſume to himſelf the abſolute power of diſpoſing of his ſubjects property, and leaving their grievances unredreſſed, and the parliament, who were willing to grant the king the neceſſary ſupplies, provided their grievances were redreſſed, and the rightful privileges of the ſubject ſecured, which at laſt produced a civil war. Aug. 22, 1642, the king, in a ſolemn manner, ſet up his ſtandard at Nottingham. On June 1, 1645, was fought the famous battle of Naſeby, which decided the quarrel between the king and the parliament, wherein the parliament's forces gained a complete victory. Upon the approach of Lord Fairfax, to lay ſiege to Oxford, his majeſty made his eſcape from thence,

thence, and threw himſelf into the hands of the Scots army. Oxford ſurrendered June 22, 1646, and the few remaining garriſons ſoon after. The parliament then conſulted how to get the king out of the hands of the Scots, and to ſend them back into their own country. After ſeveral debates about the diſpoſal of his perſon, the Scots having received 200,000l. Auguſt 8, 1646, delivered him up to the commiſſioners of the parliament of England, who were ſent down to Newcaſtle to receive him. The ſame day their army began to march for Scotland, and the king was conducted to Holmby-houſe, in Northamptonſhire. He was afterwards removed to Hampton-court, from whence he made his eſcape, and fled to the iſle of Wight. He had not been there long, when a party of Cromwell's ſoldiers ſeized him, and conveyed him firſt to Hurſt caſtle, from thence to Windſor, and at laſt to St. James's palace. The next day he was brought to his trial, and ſentence of death was paſſed upon him; purſuant to which he was beheaded before the Banqueting-houſe, at Whitehall, on the 30th of January, 1648, in the 49th year of his age, and the 24th of his reign. His body was carried to Windſor, and privately interred in St. George's chapel.

Such was the unworthy and unexampled end of Charles I. king of England. He was a prince of a middling ſtature, robuſt, and well proportioned. His hair was of a dark colour,

colour, his forehead high, his complexion pale, his viſage long, and his aſpect melancholy. His perception was clear and acute, his judgment ſolid and deciſive. In his private morals he was altogether unblemiſhed and exemplary. He was merciful, modeſt, chaſte, temperate, religious, perſonally brave; and we may join the noble hiſtorian in ſaying, "He was the worthieſt gentleman, the beſt maſter, the beſt friend, the beſt huſband, the beſt father, and the beſt chriſtian of the age in which he lived." He ſuffered himſelf to be guided by counſellors, who were not only inferior to himſelf in knowledge and judgment, but generally proud, partial, and inflexible; and he paid too much deference to the advice and deſires of his conſort, who was ſuperſtitiouſly attached to the errors of popery.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1625. A great plague in London, which ſwept away 35,417 perſons.

1630. May 29. A bright ſtar appeared, and ſhone all the day.

1635. Thomas Parr was preſented to the king, being 152 years of age, and in perfect health. He died at London, November 15. He had lived in ten reigns.

1636. There was a plague in London.

1643. Exciſe on beer, ale, &c. firſt impoſed by parliament.

THE

THE COMMONWEALTH.

OLIVER CROMWELL was the ſon of a private gentleman of Huntingdon, and was born the 24th of April, 1599. Being the ſon of a ſecond brother, he inherited a very ſmall paternal fortune. From accident, or intrigue, he was choſen member for Cambridge in the long parliament; but he ſeemed at firſt to poſſeſs no talents for oratory, his perſon being ungraceful, his dreſs ſlovenly, his elocution homely, tedious, obſcure, and embarraſſed. He made up, however, by zeal and perſeverance what he wanted in natural powers; and being endowed with unſhaken intrepidity, and much diſſimulation, he roſe, through the gradations of preferment, to the poſt of lieutenant-general under Fairfax; but, in reality, poſſeſſing the ſupreme command of the whole army. After ſeveral victories, he gained the battle of Naſeby; and this, with other ſucceſſes, ſoon put an end to the war.

In 1649, Cromwell was ſent general into Ireland, when, in about nine months, he ſubdued almoſt that whole kingdom, and leaving his ſon-in-law, Ireton, to complete the conqueſt, returned to England. On June 26, 1650, he was appointed general and commander in chief of all the forces of the commonwealth, and ſet out on his march againſt the Scots, who had eſpouſed the roya cauſe, and

and placed young Charles, the ſon of their late monarch, on the throne. On Sept. 3, 1651, he totally defeated the royaliſts at Worceſter, when the king himſelf was obliged to fly. After having undergone an amazing variety of dangers and diſtreſſes, he landed ſafely at Feſcamp, in Normandy; no leſs than forty perſons having at different times been privy to his eſcape. In the mean time, Cromwell, crowned with ſucceſs, returned to London, where he was met by the ſpeaker of the houſe, accompanied by the mayor and magiſtrates of London, in their formalities. He began now to complain of the long parliament, which, on the 20th of April, 1653, he diſſolved by force; and two days after, publiſhed a declaration of his reaſons, ſigned by himſelf and his council of officers. On December 16, Cromwell was inveſted with the title of Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland. He now applied himſelf to the management of the ſeveral parties; ſupplied the benches of the courts of Weſtminſter with the ableſt lawyers, but acted in the moſt arbitrary and oppreſſive manner, where his own intereſt was concerned. He gave the command of all the forces in Scotland to general Monk, and ſent his own ſon, Henry, to govern Ireland. In 1655, he ſent a powerful fleet, under the command of admiral Penn, and 5000 land forces, commanded by general Venables, to attack the iſland of Hiſpaniola.

niola. Failing, however, in this, and being driven off the place by the Spaniards, they ſteered to Jamaica, which was ſurrendered to them without a blow. In the mean time, admiral Blake performed great actions in the Mediterranean; ſo that the Protector's reputation was very high abroad.

In 1657, the Parliament agreed to offer Cromwell the title of King. Finding it diſagreeable to his beſt friends, he told them, he could not, with a good conſcience, accept the regal title; but his highneſs reſolved upon a new inauguration, which was accordingly performed in Weſtminſter-hall, June 26, with all the ſplendor of a coronation. The next year, Dunkirk ſurrendered to the French, and was delivered into the hands of the Engliſh.

His favourite daughter, Mrs. Claypole, died on Auguſt 6, 1658, of a languiſhing diſorder, during which ſhe, in divers conferences, awakened the horrors of his guilty conſcience. He was, from that time, wholly altered, grew daily more reſerved and ſuſpicious; not indeed without reaſon; for he found a general diſcontent prevail through the nation. He wore armour under his cloathes, and always kept a piſtol in his pocket. He always travelled with hurry, and attended by a numerous guard. He never returned from any place by the road he went; and ſeldom ſlept above three nights together in the ſame chamber. A tertian ague kindly

came at laſt to deliver him from this life of horror and anxiety. He died on the 3d of September, the anniverſary of the victories he had obtained at Dunbar, and Worceſter; and his death was rendered remarkable by one of the moſt violent tempeſts which had blown in the memory of man. He was then fifty-nine years old, and had uſurped the government nine years.

Richard, his ſon, was the next day proclaimed Lord Protector; who wanted reſolution to defend the title that had been conferred upon him: he ſoon ſigned his own abdication in form, and retired to live at firſt on the continent, and afterwards on his paternal fortune at home. He died at Cheſhunt in Hertfordſhire, in the year 1712.

CHARLES II.

CHARLES II. was born on the 29th of May, 1630. After an exile of twelve years, in France and Holland, he was reſtored by general Monk, who had rendered himſelf abſolute maſter of the parliament. On May 29, 1660, he made his triumphal entry into London, and was crowned the following year. In 1662, the marriage between the king, and Catharine, infanta of Portugal, was ſolemnized. In 1665, war was declared againſt the Dutch, and on the 3d of June, a great victory was obtained over them at ſea. The next year, the French king declared

war

war againſt England. The Engliſh fleet, under the command of prince Rupert and the duke of Albemarle, put to ſea about the middle of May; and there ſoon was a moſt bloody fight with admiral Ruyter, in which the Engliſh were worſted. There was another furious engagement in July, when the Engliſh gained a complete victory, deſtroying above twenty Dutch men of war, and driving the reſt into their harbours. In this action the Dutch loſt four of their admirals, beſides 4000 other officers and ſeamen; and the loſs on the ſide of the Engliſh is ſaid to have been inconſiderable. In Auguſt, Sir Robert Holmes burnt two men of war, and 150 ſail of merchant ſhips, belonging to the Dutch.

On September 3, a terrible fire broke out in London, which continuing three days, laid the greateſt part of the city in aſhes. It deſtroyed 6000 ſtreets including 89 churches, many hoſpitals and public edifices, and 13,200 dwelling houſes. The ruins, comprehending 436 acres of ground, extended from the Tower, along the River, to the Temple church; and north-eaſterly, along the city walls, as far as Holborn bridge.

On June 11, 1667, the Dutch ſailed up the river Medway, as far as Chatham, made themſelves maſters of Sheerneſs, and burnt ſeveral men of war, together with a magazine full of ſtores. But king Charles, notwithſtanding this piece of treachery, concluded the treaty at Breda, by which the colony of

New York, in North America, was ceded by the Dutch to the Engliſh. This peace was, however, but of ſhort continuance; for, in the year 1672, king Charles joined with the French, who attacked the Dutch by land, while the Engliſh engaged their fleets at ſea; but peace was concluded two years after. The year 1684 was almoſt wholly taken up with proſecutions of perſons for ſpeaking ill of the king, the duke of York, and the government; ſome were fined in large ſums, and others pilloried. In 1685, the king was ſeized with a ſudden fit, which reſembled an apoplexy; and, though he was recovered by bleeding, yet he languiſhed only for a few days, and expired on the 6th of February, in the 55th year of his age, after a reign of near twenty-five years. He was buried in Henry the Seventh's chapel, in Weſtminſter-abbey. He had no children by his queen, but ſeveral by his miſtreſſes.

Charles II. was in his perſon tall and ſwarthy, and his countenance marked with ſtrong, harſh lineaments. His penetration was keen, his judgment clear, his underſtanding extenſive, his converſation lively and entertaining, and he poſſeſſed the talent of wit and ridicule. He was eaſy of acceſs, polite, and affable. Had he been limited to a private ſtation, he would have paſſed for the moſt agreeable and beſt-natured man of the age

age in which he lived. His greateſt enemies allow him to have been a civil huſband, an obliging lover, an affectionate father, and an indulgent maſter: even as a prince, he manifeſted an averſion to cruelty and injuſtice. Yet theſe good qualities were more than overbalanced by his weakneſs and defects. He was a ſcoffer at religion, and a libertine in his morals; careleſs, indolent, profuſe, abandoned to effeminate pleaſure, incapable of any noble enterprize, a ſtranger to manly friendſhip and gratitude, deaf to the voice of honour, blind to the allurements of glory, and, in a word, wholly deſtitute of every active virtue.

Trade and manufactures flouriſhed more in this reign than at any other æra of the Engliſh monarchy. Induſtry was crowned with ſucceſs, and the people in general lived in eaſe and affluence.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1660. The royal Society was firſt erected and eſtabliſhed this year.

1662. Feb. 18. A great ſtorm in London.

1665. A moſt terrible peſtilence broke out in London, which ſwept off 68,596 perſons.

1666. Tea firſt uſed in England.

1667. The king laid the firſt ſtone of the Royal Exchange.

1670. This year died Henry Jenkins, of Yorkſhire, aged 170.

1671. May 9. Blood attempted to ſteal the crown out of the Tower, but was apprehended.

1680. A great comet appeared, and from its nearneſs to our earth, alarmed the inhabitants. It continued viſible from Nov. 3, to March 9.

1683. A froſt, which continued thirteen weeks.

JAMES II.

JAMES II. the ſecond ſon of Charles I. king of Great Britain, and Henrietta, the daughter of Henry IV. king of France, was born at London, the 14th of October, 1633, and had the title of duke of York. After the taking of Oxford, in 1646, the parliament committed him to the care of the earl of Northumberland; but he made his eſcape, dreſſed like a girl; and, flying into Holland, ſought protection from his ſiſter, the princeſs of Orange. He afterwards went into France, ſerved under the viſcount de Turenne, and gave proofs of a courage worthy of his birth. He alſo diſtinguiſhed himſelf, in 1655, in the Spaniſh army, under Don Juan of Auſtria. In 1660, he returned to England with his eldeſt brother, king Charles II. was made lord high admiral of the kingdom, and beat the Dutch fleets in 1665 and in 1672; but, as he openly profeſſed his adherence to the popiſh religion, and prevailed upon his brother to take ſeveral arbitrary and unpopular meaſures,

ſures, the parliament attempted to exclude him from the ſucceſſion: but Charles II. dying on the 6th of February, 1685, the duke of York was proclaimed king the ſame day, under the title of James II. and a ſhort time after in Scotland, under that of James VII. On his acceſſion, he made a ſpeech to the privy council, promiſing to preſerve the government both of the church and ſtate; yet two days after went publickly to maſs.

On the 11th of June, the duke of Monmouth, natural ſon of king Charles II. landed at Lyme, in Dorſetſhire, with only eighty-three followers, and immediately publiſhed a declaration, that his ſole motive for taking arms, was, to preſerve the proteſtant religion, and to deliver the nation from the uſurpation and tyranny of James duke of York; and that his mother was actually married to king Charles II. He thus raiſed an army in the weſt of England; but, being defeated and taken priſoner, was beheaded on Tower-hill, July 15, 1695, aged 35 years. Thoſe who had eſpouſed his cauſe were now butchered by military execution, under general Kirk, or barbarouſly executed, by form of law, under judge Jefferies, who cauſed about 600 perſons to be hanged; and the ſteeples, town-gates, and roads, were ſtuck with the heads and limbs of thoſe who had adhered to the duke.

James II. ſhewed great zeal for reſtoring the popiſh religion in England, and, in 1687, pub-

publiſhed a proclamation, granting liberty of conſcience, by which he gave great pleaſure to the diſſenters, who had been ſeverely perſecuted in the preceding reigns; but, on its being diſcovered that this was an artifice intended to favour the popiſh party, who were ſoon put into places of honour and profit, they joined with thoſe of the eſtabliſhed church in oppoſing it. The popiſh prieſts now appearing publickly in their habits in the ſtreets, and a nuncio arriving from Rome, the whole nation were alarmed, and applied to William Henry of Naſſau, prince of Orange, who had married Mary, king James's eldeſt daughter, and was himſelf the ſon of that king's eldeſt ſiſter. This prince arrived in England, in 1688, when the diſſatisfaction againſt the king was ſo great, that a conſiderable part of his army forſook him; and, without venturing an engagment, king James privately retired to France; on which the prince of Orange was crowned king of England by the name of William III. Thus was formed the famous period in Engliſh hiſtory called the Revolution.

In 1689, James II. landed with an army in Ireland, in order to render himſelf maſter of that kingdom; but, having loſt the battle of the Boyne, in which king William commanded in perſon, he was obliged to return to France, where he reſided at St. Germain's, and died there, Sept. 16, 1701, aged 68. He was buried in the church of the monaſtery of the

the Benedictines, in Paris. James II. wrote Memoirs of his own life and campaigns, to the Reſtoration; Memoirs of the Engliſh affairs, chiefly naval, from the year 1660 to 1673.

James II. was a prince in whom ſome good qualities were rendered ineffectual, by miſtaken notions of the prerogative, exceſſive bigotry to the religion of Rome, and an inflexible ſeverity of temper. He was brave, ſteady, reſolute, diligent, upright, and ſincere, except when warped by religious conſiderations; yet, even where religion was not concerned, he appears to have been proud, haughty, vindictive, cruel, and unrelenting; and, though he approved himſelf an obedient and dutiful ſubject, he certainly became one of the moſt intolerable ſovereigns that ever reigned over a free people.

WILLIAM III.

WILLIAM III. of Naſſau, prince of Orange, ſtadtholder of the United Provinces, king of England, &c. was the ſon of William of Naſſau, prince of Orange, by Mary, the eldeſt daughter of Charles I. king of England, and was born at the Hague, the 14th of November, 1650. He was about 22 years of age when, in 1672, he was elected ſtadtholder, and declared general of the Dutch troops, in order to put a ſtop to the rapidity of the conqueſts made by Lewis XIV. In 1673, he took the ſtrong town of Naerden,

and

and obliged the French to quit Utrecht, and ſeveral conſiderable places where they had garriſons. Soon after, he engaged the French at Senef, where he gained great honour by his courage and conduct, and obtained a victory, after a moſt bloody engagement. On the 17th of October, 1677, he embarked for England, and the 4th of November, was married to the princeſs Mary, eldeſt daughter of the duke of York. On the 29th of the ſame month he departed from London, with his princeſs, and landed at Terbeyde. In Auguſt, 1678, he attacked and defeated the duke of Luxemburgh, in his quarters, near the abbey of St. Denis. In the heat of the action he advanced ſo far, that he was in great danger of being killed. On June 29, 1684, a treaty was ſigned at the Hague, which put an end to the war.

James, duke of York, having aſcended the throne of England, after the death of his brother Charles II. endeavouring to reſtore the popiſh religion, and to deſtroy the civil and religious liberties of the people, they naturally caſt their eyes on the prince of Orange, and applied to him for deliverance; on which he landed at Torbay, November 5, 1688, and was joyfully received by almoſt the whole nation.

James now made his eſcape to France, and after his departure, the lords and commons agreed, after much diſpute, that he had abdicated the throne, upon which the prince of Orange,

Orange, and the princeſs Mary, were proclaimed king and queen the 13th of Feb. 1689, and crowned the 11th of April following. An attempt was then made by the oppoſite party to ſecure Scotland for James II. but, on the 26th of May, 1689, the two armies meeting at Killycrankie, in the ſhire of Perth, lieutenant-general Mackay, who commanded for king William, obtained a complete victory; after which the whole iſland of Great Britain ſubmitted to him. In the mean time, Tyrconnel had diſarmed great part of the proteſtants of Ireland, and formed an army of papiſts, amounting to 30,000 foot, and 8000 horſe, while the proteſtants in the North took up arms, and, ſeizing on Kilmore, Coleraine, Inniſkilling, and Londonderry, declared for king William and queen Mary. Things were in this ſituation, when James, landing at Kinſale, March 12, 1688-9, made his public entry into Dublin. He ſoon after put himſelf at the head of 20,000 men, and was twice reinforced by the French, who each time joined him with 5000 men. He took Coleraine and Kilmore, and laid ſiege to Londonderry; but ſoon after returned to meet his parliament in Dublin, where he paſſed an act to attaint 2 or 3000 proteſtant lords, ladies, clergymen, and gentlemen, of high treaſon. In the mean time, the ſiege of Londonderry was vigorouſly carried on. The garriſon of Inniſkilling, at the ſame time, did wonders; particularly the day before the

ſiege

ſiege of Derry was raiſed, they advanced near twenty miles, to meet about 6000 Iriſh, and defeated them, killing near 3000, though they themſelves were not above 2000, and had not above 20 killed, and 50 wounded. In Auguſt, the duke of Schomberg arrived in Ireland, with 10,000 men, took Carrickfergus in four days, and performed other acts of bravery and conduct. In June, 1690, king William landed in Ireland with a gallant army, and on July 1, fought the memorable battle of the Boyne, in which, though he had the misfortune to loſe the brave duke of Schomberg, yet he gained a complete victory over the French and Iriſh, and obliged king James to retire to Dublin, and make all the haſte he could back to France. King William alſo proceeded to Dublin, and thence to England. The next year, the Engliſh, under the brave General Gincle, and other valiant commanders, made themſelves maſters of Baltimore, with incredible bravery paſſed the Shannon, amidſt the fire of the enemy, and took Athlone; and, on July 12, fought the glorious battle of Ahgrim, wherein 4000 Iriſh, and their general, St. Ruth, were ſlain, and all their tents, arms, &c. taken. After this entire defeat, Galway ſurrendered, and Limerick capitulated; by which an end was put to the Iriſh war, and all Ireland was reduced to the obedience of king William and queen Mary. In the mean time, the French king was puſhing his conqueſts

queſts in the Netherlands, and other parts, which made it neceſſary for king William to go over to the famous congreſs at the Hague, in the beginning of the year 1691, in order to animate the confederate princes and ſtates. The French were ſo far beforehand with the allies, that they took the ſtrong city of Mons this year, and Namur in the year following; after which was fought the famous battle of Steenkirk, wherein, though the French remained maſters of the field of battle, yet king William ſo bravely diſputed the victory, that they had ſcarce any thing elſe to boaſt of, the loſs being nearly equal on both ſides. The king was no ſooner gone abroad in 1691, than the Jacobites reſumed their favourite ſcheme, in concert with France, for reſtoring the late king James. But the vigilance of queen Mary and the government again diſconcerted their meaſures. In July, 1693, was fought the famous battle of Landen between the allied army, commanded by king William, and the French, under the duke of Luxemburgh; and, though the latter were much ſuperior in number, the former fought with ſuch obſtinate bravery, under their prudent and valiant leader, that, for ſome time, they manifeſtly had the advantage; and it was only the ſuperiority in numbers that at laſt wreſted the victory out of their hands: after which, the French made themſelves maſters of Charleroy. On December 28, 1694, queen Mary died of the ſmall-pox, to

the inexpreſſible grief of the nation. She was king James's eldeſt daughter, and died in the 33d year of her age, having reigned near ſix years jointly with the king her huſband. On March 5, ſhe was moſt ſolemnly and magnificently interred in the chapel of Henry VII. The year 1695 was glorious to king William and the allies, by the reduction of Namur. Marſhal Boufflers having thrown himſelf into it, with a ſtrong reinforcement, the garriſon then conſiſted of 15,000 men, and they were furniſhed with proviſions for ſeveral months. Yet king William, having laid ſiege to it in the beginning of July, carried it on with ſuch vigour, and good conduct, even in the ſight of a numerous French army under marſhal Villeroy, who had advanced to relieve it, that the town ſurrendered on Auguſt 6, N. S. and the caſtle in leſs than a month after. The Engliſh fleet, under lord Berkley, ſpread terror this ſummer along the coaſts of France, bombarded St. Maloes, and ſome other towns; and, in return, Villeroy, by the French king's order, bombarded Bruſſels. On the 12th of January a double plot was diſcovered to aſſaſſinate the king, and invade the kingdom. Many of the late king James's emiſſaries came over from France, and held conſultations with papiſts and jacobites here, how to murder king William; and, after ſeveral debates on the time, place, and manner

of

of putting their horrid deſign in execution, they at laſt agreed to aſſaſſinate his majeſty in his coach, on ſome day in February, 1695-6, in a lane between Brentford and Turnham-green, as he returned from hunting. But happily the whole plot was diſcovered on the very night before it was to have been executed. At the ſame time, there was to be an invaſion from France; for which purpoſe king James was come to Calais, and the troops, artillery, and ſtores, were immediately ordered to be embarked; but, by the news of the aſſaſſination-plot having miſcarried, and the ſpeedily ſending a formidable fleet under admiral Ruſſel, this other part of the deſign was fruſtrated, and Calais was, not long after, bombarded by the Engliſh. A treaty of peace was at laſt happily concluded, and ſigned at Ryſwick by the Engliſh, Spaniſh, French, and Dutch plenipotentiaries, on September 20, 1697, and by the miniſters of the emperor, who ſtood out for ſome time, on October 20, with as much advantage to the allies as could reaſonably be expected. On the 29th of July, 1700, the young duke of Glouceſter, the only remaining child of ſeventeen whom the princeſs Anne had born, died of a malignant fever, in the 11th year of his age. The king of Spain dying towards the end of this year, the duke of Anjou was declared king of Spain by the French king, his grandfather. The

French, at the ſame time, over-running the Spaniſh Netherlands, both king William and the States were obliged to own the Duke of Anjou's title, in order to gain time. On February 21, 1701-2, the king, who had been declining in his health for ſome time, fell from his horſe, as he was hunting, and diſlocated his right collar bone; which, joined with his former indiſpoſition, held him in a languiſhing ſtate till the 8th of March, when, with great compoſedneſs and reſignation, he expired. Thus died the heroic king William III. in the 52d year of his age, after having reigned thirteen years, three weeks, and two days. On the 12th of April following he was interred in Henry the Seventh's chapel, near the remains of his queen. He left no iſſue.

William III. was in his perſon of the middle ſtature, a thin body, and delicate conſtitution, ſubject to an aſthma and continual cough from his infancy. He had an aquiline noſe, ſparkling eyes, a large forehead, and a grave, ſolemn aſpect. He was very ſparing of ſpeech; his converſation was dry, and his manner diſguſting, except in battle, when his deportment was free, ſpirited, and animating. In courage, fortitude, and equanimity, he rivalled the moſt eminent warriors of antiquity; and his natural ſagacity made amends for the defects of his education, which had not been properly ſuperintended. He was religious, temperate, generally juſt and

and ſincere, a ſtranger to violent tranſports of paſſion, and might have paſſed for one of the beſt princes of the age in which he lived, had he never aſcended the throne of Great Britain. But the diſtinguiſhing criterion of his character was ambition: to this he ſacrificed the punctilios of honour and decorum, in depoſing his father-in-law and uncle; and this he gratified at the expence of the nation that raiſed him to ſovereign authority. He aſpired to the honour of acting as umpire in all the conteſts of Europe; and the ſecond object of his attention was, the proſperity of that country to which he owed his birth and extraction. To ſum up his character in a few words; William was a fataliſt in religion, indefatigable in war, enterprizing in politics, dead to all the warm and generous emotions of the human heart, a cold relation, an indifferent huſband, a diſagreeable man, an ungracious prince, and an imperious ſovereign.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1693. Bayonets firſt uſed by the French.

1693. The bank of England was eſtabliſhed, and the firſt public lottery drawn this year.

1694. Stamp-duties inſtituted.

1701. Pruſſia erected into a kingdom.

ANNE.

THIS amiable and illuſtrious princeſs was deſcended from a race of kings the moſt ancient of any in Europe. She was the ſecond daughter of James, duke of York, afterwards king James II. by Mrs. Anne Hyde, eldeſt daughter of Edward earl of Clarendon. The duke was privately married to this lady, during his firſt exile, in 1659. In 1660, ſhe was, by an order of council, declared ducheſs of York, and to have the precedency of the princeſs of Orange, and the queen of Bohemia. The ducheſs died at the palace of St. James's, March 31, 1671: ſhe had iſſue by the duke four ſons and four daughters; Charles, born October 22, 1660; Mary, born April 30, 1662; James, born July 12, 1663; Anne, born February 6, 1664; Charles, born July 4, 1665; Edgar, born September 14, 1667; Henrietta, born January 13, 1669; and Catharine, born February 9, 1670; of whom Charles, James Charles, and Henrietta, died in her life-time, and Edgar and Catharine did not ſurvive her a year; but Mary and Anne lived to be queens of England. Princeſs Mary was about nine years old, and Princeſs Anne about ſeven, at the death of their mother.

On the death of king William III. who died on Sunday, March 8, 1702, about eight

eight in the morning, princeſs Anne was, about three the ſame afternoon, proclaimed queen of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, in the cities of London and Weſtminſter, and was crowned on the 23d of April following. During her reign, the honour of the Britiſh arms was carried to an amazing height, particularly by the duke of Marlborough, who, in her reign, humbled the pride of France, by a number of the moſt glorious victories. The nation being at the ſame time at war with Spain, the duke of Ormond and Sir George Rooke took Vigo, when eleven French men of war were burnt, and ten taken; ſix galleons were ſunk, and eleven taken. On the 24th of July, 1704, Sir George Rooke took Gibraltar, after a ſiege of two days. The next year, the earl of Peterborough took the city of Barcelona, and ſeveral other places in Spain; and, in 1706, the earl of Galway, at the head of 20,000 men, took Alcantara, a city of Portugal. In 1708, major-general Stanhope landed with 3000 men on the iſland of Minorca, and attacked fort St. Philip, where the garriſon, which conſiſted of 1000 Spaniards, and 600 French, ſurrendered in three days; and the men were made priſoners of war, and the whole iſland conquered in three weeks.

The wars were concluded by the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, by which Spain and Spaniſh America were confirmed to king Philip;

But

but the Netherlands, and the Spaniſh dominions in Italy, were ſeparated from that monarchy. Their Italian dominions conſiſted of the kingdoms of Naples, Sicily, Sardinia, aad the Duchy of Milan; of which, Naples, Sardinia, and Milan, were beſtowed on the emperor; and Sicily, with the title of king, given to the duke of Savoy. The Dutch had a barrier given them againſt France in the Netherlands; while Harley and Bolingbroke, the new miniſtry, in compliance to France, only inſiſted on having Dunkirk demoliſhed, and the poſſeſſion of Gibraltar, Minorca, and Acadia, or Nova Scotia, ſecured to the crown of England, though much better terms had before been offered by the French. Queen Anne procured a law for the building of fifty new churches within the bills of mortality, with an augmentation of the livings of the poor clergy; and, in 1706, the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland took place. The queen died at Kenſington, on the 1ſt of Auguſt, 1714, in the morning, in the 50th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign. She had been married to his royal highneſs prince George of Denmark, July 28, 1683, by whom ſhe had ſeveral children, who died young.

Anne Stuart, queen of Great Britain, was in her perſon of the middle ſize, majeſtic, and well proportioned. Her hair was of a dark brown colour, her complexion ruddy, her

her features very regular, and her countenance round and handſome. Her voice was clear and melodious, and her preſence engaging. She was certainly deficient in that vigour of mind by which a prince ought to preſerve his independence, and avoid the ſnares and fetters of ſycophants and favourites; but, whatever her weakneſs in this particular might have been, the virtues of her heart were never called in queſtion. She was a pattern of conjugal affection and fidelity, a tender mother, a warm friend, an indulgent miſtreſs, a munificent patron, a mild and merciful princeſs, during whoſe reign no ſubject's blood was ſhed for treaſon. In a word, if ſhe was not the greateſt, ſhe was certainly one of the beſt and moſt unblemiſhed ſovereigns that ever ſat upon the throne of England.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1703. Nov. 3. The moſt terrible ſtorm that had ever been known in England.

1707. Oct. 24. The firſt Britiſh parliament met.

1710. The cathedral church of St. Paul, London, rebuilt.

GEORGE I.

GEORGE I. was created duke of Cambridge, October 5, 1706, and, on the death of queen Anne, ſucceeded to the crown

crown of Great Britain. He was the eldeſt ſon of Erneſtus Auguſtus, duke, afterwards elector, of Brunſwic-Lunenburgh (or Hanover) by the princeſs Sophia, daughter of Frederick, elector palatine, and king of Bohemia, and of Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter of James I. He was born May 28, 1660, and ſucceeded his father as elector of Brunſwic-Lunenburgh, in 1698. The regency met, and gave orders immediately for his proclamation. On September 18, he landed, with the prince his ſon, at Greenwich, and on the 20th they made their public entry through the city to St. James's, attended by above 200 coaches and ſix of the nobility and gentry. The prince royal was declared prince of Wales; the king was crowned October 20; a new parliament met on March 17, 1715. In July the king gave the royal aſſent to an act for preventing tumults and riotous aſſemblies, commonly called the Riot Act, which is ſtill in force.

This year, a rebellion broke out, which was headed by the earl of Mar in Scotland, who ſet up the Pretender's ſtandard, in September, in the Highlands, and cauſed him to be proclaimed in ſeveral places; when the earl of Derwentwater, and others, appeared in arms, in the north of England, in October, and proclaimed the Pretender in ſeveral places. On November 12, they were attacked by the king's troops, commanded by the generals Wills and Carpenter, in Preſton, where,

where, after a ſmart firing from the windows, finding all the avenues to the town blocked up by the king's troops, on the 13th they deſired to capitulate; but, no other terms being allowed them, than ſubmitting to the king's mercy, on the 14th, at ſeven in the morning, they ſubmitted. On the very day the rebels were ſubdued at Preſton, Sunday, November 13, the Duke of Argyle defeated the rebel army, under the earl of Mar, conſiſting of about 8 or 9000 men, at Sheriff-muir, about four miles from Aberdeen; and the earl of Mar retreated to Perth, after an obſtinate fight, in which both ſides claimed the victory, though the earl, being fruſtrated in his deſign of croſſing the Forth, ſhewed that the king's forces had the advantage. On December 22, the Pretender arrived in a Dunkirk privateer in Scotland, where he was preſently met and complimented by the earl of Mar, and others of his adherents; but, being cloſely purſued by the king's troops, on February 14, the Pretender, with the earl of Mar, and ſome chiefs, found means to make their eſcape in a French ſhip which lay there: ſoon after which the rebels were conducted into the mountains by Gordon, their general, where they diſperſed. Some ſubmitted, and ſome were taken priſoners. Among them was their general Forſter, as alſo the earls of Derwentwater, Nithſdale, Carnwarth, Wintoun, and other noblemen. The lords Derwentwater and Kenmuir were beheaded

headed on Tower-hill, February 24, 1715-16; Nithſdale and Wintoun made their eſcape out of the Tower; and, after the execution of ſome of the rebels, an act of grace paſſed, Robert Walpole, Eſq. was ſome time before made firſt commiſſioner of the treaſury, and chancellor of the exchequer; and, about the ſame time, the parliament attainted James Butler, duke of Ormond, of high treaſon, and confiſcated his eſtate. A few weeks after, the king gave the royal aſſent to an act for enlarging the time of continuance of parliaments for ſeven years, inſtead of three years, as by the triennial act paſſed in the reign of king William.

A quadruple alliance was ſigned at London, July 22, 1718, between the emperor, Great Britain and Holland. On July 31, Sir George Byng entirely defeated the Spaniſh fleet in the Mediterranean, the Spaniards having attacked the citadel of Meſſina in Sicily, which was agreed to be given up to the emperor. War was declared againſt Spain in December following, both by Great Britain and France.

The year 1720 was remarkable for the South Sea ſcheme, when the greateſt part of the nation turned ſtock-jobbers. South Sea ſtock roſe and fell till it came to above 1000; but it fell faſter than it roſe, and many families were ruined by it, while a few got vaſt riches. The directors eſtates were ſold for the benefit of the ſufferers, and they were incapacitated

citated from ſitting in either houſe of parliament, or holding any office or place of truſt for ever. Sir Robert Walpole, who had reſigned, was again made chancellor of the exchequer, and firſt lord of the treaſury; which poſts he held to the end of this reign, and fifteen years after.

On the 15th of April, 1721, the princeſs of Wales was delivered of William Auguſtus, the famous duke of Cumberland. A new parliament met on Oct. 9, 1722, when the king acquainted them with a conſpiracy for overturning the eſtabliſhed government, and ſetting up the Pretender. Chriſtopher Layer, a counſellor of the Temple, was executed at Tyburn, May 17, 1723, and his head fixed upon Temple-bar, for being concerned in it. The parliament paſſed bills for inflicting pains and penalties on biſhop Atterbury, Kelly, and Plunket, on the ſame account, whereby the firſt was baniſhed, and the two laſt impriſoned for life. In 1725, the earl of Macclesfield, lord high chancellor, reſigned the ſeals; he was fined 30,000l. and committed to the Tower till he paid it. He was ſucceeded by Sir Peter King, lord chief juſtice of the Common Pleas. At this time was paſſed an act for regulating elections in the city of London. The ſame ſeſſion, Henry St. John, lord viſcount Bolingbroke, was reſtored to his eſtates, and an act paſſed for that purpoſe, though he was not reſtored to his title. In the ſame year, 1725, the order of the Bath was revived, and thirty-ſeven new knights were inſtalled.

On Sept. 3, 1725, a treaty was concluded between Great Britain, France, and Pruſſia; though the laſt, in effect, ſoon deſerted this alliance; but the ſtates general afterwards acceded to it. This treaty was deſigned as a balance to one which had been concluded between the court of Vienna and Madrid. Theſe counter-alliances put Europe again in a flame, and three Britiſh ſquadrons were fitted out; one ſent to the Weſt Indies, another to the coaſt of Spain, and the third to the Baltic. In the beginning of the year 1727, the Spaniards laid ſiege to Gibraltar; which though it was ſuſpended upon preliminary articles for a general pacification being ſigned, was not ratified till ſome time after the king's death. On June 3, his majeſty embarked on board the Carolina yacht, and landed on the 7th at Vaert in Holland, where he lay that night. On the 9th, he arrived at Delden, between 11 and 12 at night, ſeemingly in good health. He ſet out the next morning about 3 o'clock, was taken ill on the road, and died at his brother's palace at Oſnaburg, June 11, 1727, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign.

George I. was plain and ſimple in his perſon and addreſs; grave and compoſed in his deportment, though eaſy, familiar, and facetious, in his hours of relaxation. Before he aſcended the throne of Great Britain, he had acquired the character of a circumſpect general, a juſt and merciful prince, and a wiſe politician, who perfectly underſtood, and ſteadily purſued his

his own intereſt. With theſe qualities, it cannot be doubted but that he came to England extremely well diſpoſed to govern his new ſubjects according to the maxims of the Britiſh conſtitution, and the genius of the people; and, if ever he ſeemed to deviate from theſe principles, we may take it for granted, that he was miſled by the venal ſuggeſtions of a miniſtry, whoſe power and influence were founded on corruption.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1715. April 22. A total eclipſe.

1727. Inoculation firſt tried on criminals with ſucceſs.

1727. Ruſſia, formerly a dukedom, is now eſtabliſhed as an empire.

GEORGE II.

GEORGE II. (then in the 44th year of his age) was proclaimed king of Great Britain on the 15th of June, 1727, being the day after the expreſs arrived with the account of the death of his father. On the 11th of October, the coronation of the king and queen was performed at Weſtminſter-abbey, with the uſual ſolemnity.

In the beginning of December, his majeſty's eldeſt ſon, prince Frederick, arrived in England, from Hanover, where he had hitherto reſided: he was introduced into the privy council, and created prince of Wales.

The Spaniards ſtill continued their depredations with impunity on the commerce of Great Britain. The court of Spain, indeed, at this juncture, ſeemed cold and indifferent with regard to a pacification with England. In September, 1729, Victor Amadeus, king of Sardinia, reſigned his crown to his ſon, Charles Emanuel, prince of Piedmont. The father reſerved to himſelf a revenue of 100,000 piſtoles per annum, retired to the caſtle of Chamberry, and eſpouſed the counteſs dowager of St. Sebaſtian.

On the 1ſt of Feb. 1733, died Auguſtus II. king of Poland, which gave riſe to a dreadful war in Europe. Three parties were formed on this occaſion.

In 1734, king Staniſlaus was obliged to fly ſecretly from Dantzic, and leave the crown of Poland to Auguſtus, elector of Saxony. England, during theſe tranſactions, preſerved a neutrality. At length, a quarrel breaking out between the courts of Madrid and Liſbon, the latter applied for aſſiſtance to the king of Great Britain, who ſent Sir John Norris, with a powerful ſquadron, to Liſbon.

On the 27th of April, 1736, the prince of Wales was married to the princeſs of Saxe-Gotha.

The beginning of the year 1737, was diſtinguiſhed by a rupture in the royal family, occaſioned by the prince of Wales carrying away the princeſs of Wales, then near her time, from

from Hampton-court, where their majeſties reſided, to St. James's, where ſhe was that night delivered of Auguſta, now princeſs of Brunſwick. On the 20th of November died queen Caroline, in the 55th year of her age. The diſſention ſtill ſubſiſted between the prince of Wales and his father, who ordered the lord chamberlain to ſignify publicly, that no perſon who viſited the prince ſhould be admitted to the court at St. James's. In 1739, war was declared againſt Spain, and admiral Vernon ſent, in July, with a ſquadron of ſhips to annoy their commerce and ſettlements in America; where, in November, he took the town of Porto-Bello, with only ſix ſhips. The next year, advice was received from admiral Vernon, that he had bombarded Carthagena, and taken Fort Chagre. On the 20th of October, Charles VI. emperor of Germany, the laſt prince of the houſe of Auſtria, died at Vienna, and was ſucceeded in his hereditary dominions by his eldeſt daughter, the archduchеſs Maria Thereſa. The young king of Pruſſia was no ſooner informed of the emperor's death, than he entered Sileſia at the head of 20,000 men, and ſeized certain fiefs, to which his family laid claim. The elector of Bavaria refuſed to acknowledge the archduchеſs as queen of Hungary and Bohemia.

The year 1741 was remarkable for general Wentworth and admiral Vernon's unſucceſsful expedition againſt Carthagena, owing to a diſagreement which aroſe between them.

By the happy influence of his Britannic majeſty, a treaty was concluded between Auſtria and Pruſſia, whereby Sileſia was given up to the latter; to which treaty Saxony alſo acceded, and peace was proclaimed at Dreſden, on the 17th of September, 1742. This obliged the French to retire with great precipitation and loſs to Prague, which Prince Charles beſieged with 60,000 men, there being 26,000 men in that city. Negociations were carried on between the generals on the reſpective ſides. The Britiſh fleet, under Sir Chaloner Ogle, was no ways fortunate in America. Commodore Knowles was ſent out with a ſquadron of ſhips to attack La Guirra and Porto-Cavallo, on the coaſts of Caraccas; but this attempt miſcarried. He afterwards attacked Porto-Cavallo, but without ſucceſs.

The queen of Hungary now began to triumph over all her enemies: the French were driven out of Bohemia; prince Charles, her general, at the head of a large army, invaded the dominions of Bavaria. The elector was obliged to fly before her; abandoned by his allies, and ſtripped of all his dominions, he repaired to Frankfort, where he lived in indigence and obſcurity. He now made advances towards an accommodation with the queen of Hungary. He agreed to continue neuter during the remainder of the war, while the French, who firſt began it as allies, ſupported the burthen. In the Netherlands, the Engliſh and French armies came to an engagement at

the village of Dettingen, June 26, 1743. The order of battle, as directed by his Britannic majeſty, was very maſterly. The king advancing to the front of his army, gave freſh ſpirits to the ſoldiers. The Britiſh troops fired too ſoon, upon the marching up of the enemy; when the French black muſquetaires, detaching themſelves from their lines, and galloping between the allied foot, were all cut to pieces. The firing now became general; when the preſence of his Britannic majeſty, who was in the poſts of the greateſt danger, and behaved with the nobleſt intrepidity, fixed the fate of the day. Marſhal Noailles ſhewed great bravery in this battle. The duke of Cumberland, being in the hotteſt of the engagement, was wounded in the calf of the leg. Hereupon Marſhal Noailles, after loſing the flower of his army, ordered a retreat. In this battle the French loſt 6000 men, and a multitude of officers, with ſome trophies; and the Engliſh 2500 men.

In 1744, commodore Anſon returned from his expedition round the world. The French went on with vigour in every quarter; they oppoſed prince Charles of Lorraine; they interrupted his progreſs in his attempts to paſs the Rhine, and gained ſome ſucceſſes in Italy; but their chief expectations were placed in a projected invaſion of England. The troops deſigned for this expedition amounted to 15,000. The duke de Roquefeuille, with twenty ſhips of the line, was to ſee them landed ſafely in England

England; and count Saxe was to command them, when put aſhore. The whole project, however, was diſconcerted by the appearance of Sir John Norris, with a ſuperior fleet, making up againſt them; the French fleet was obliged to put back; a very hard gale of wind damaged their tranſports beyond redreſs. All hopes of invaſion were now fruſtrated; and, at length the French thought fit openly to declare war. The combined fleets of France and Spain, for ſome time, fought the Britiſh armament under the admirals Matthews and Leſtock, though with inferior force, and came off nearly upon equal terms. Such a parity of ſucceſs in England was regarded as a defeat. Both the Engliſh admirals were tried by a court-martial. Matthews, who had fought the enemy with intrepidity, was declared incapable of ſerving for the future in his majeſty's navy; Leſtock, who had kept aloof, was acquitted with honour, as he had intrenched himſelf within the punctilios of diſcipline; he barely did his duty: a man of honour, when his country is at ſtake, ſhould do more. The proceedings in the Netherlands were ſtill more unfavourable. The French beſieged and took Fribourg, before they went into winter-quarters, and, early the next campaign, inveſted the city of Tournay. The allies were reſolved to prevent the loſs of this city by a battle. Their army was inferior to the French: notwithſtanding this diſadvantage, on the 30th of April, 1745, the duke of Cumberland marched

to

to the attack at two in the morning. The Britiſh infantry preſſed forward, bore down all oppoſition, and, for near an hour, were victorious. Marſhal Saxe was at that time ſick of the ſame diſorder of which he afterwards died. He viſited all the poſts in a litter; and ſaw, notwithſtanding all appearances, that the day was his own. The Engliſh column, without command, by a mere mechanical courage, had advanced upon the enemy's lines, which formed an avenue on each ſide to receive them. The French artillery began to play upon this forlorn body; and, though they continued a long time unſhaken, they were obliged to retreat about three o'clock in the afternoon. The allies left upon the field of battle near 12,000 ſlain; and the French bought their victory with almoſt an equal number. This blow, by which Tournay was taken, gave the French a manifeſt ſuperiority all the reſt of the campaign, which they did not forego during the continuance of the war.

The ſon of the old Pretender now reſolved to make an effort at gaining the Britiſh crown. Being furniſhed with ſome money, and ſtill larger promiſes, from France, he embarked for Scotland on board a ſmall frigate, accompanied by the marquis of Tullibardine, and a few other deſperate adventurers. For the conqueſt of the whole Britiſh empire, he brought with him ſeven officers, and arms for 2000 men. He landed on the coaſt of Lochabar, July 27, and was in a little time joined by ſome High-

land

land chiefs, and their vaſſals. He ſoon ſaw himſelf at the head of 1500 men, and invited others to join him by manifeſtoes, which were diſperſed throughout all the highlands. The miniſtry was no ſooner confirmed of the truth of his arrival, than Sir John Cope was ordered to oppoſe his progreſs. In the mean time, the young adventurer marched to Perth, where his father, the chevalier de St. George, was proclaimed king of Great Britain. The rebel army advanced towards Edinburgh, which they entered without oppoſition. Here, too, the pageantry of proclamation was performed. But, though he was maſter of the capital, yet the citadel, which goes by the name of the caſtle, with a good garriſon, under the command of general Gueſt, braved all his attempts. Sir John Cope, who was now reinforced by two regiments of dragoons, reſolved to march towards Edinburgh, and give him battle. The young adventurer attacked him near Preſton-Pans, and, in a few minutes, totally routed him and his troops. In this victory the king loſt 500 men, and the rebels not above 80.

In the mean time, the Pretender went forward with vigour; and, having advanced to Penrith, continued his irruption till he came to Mancheſter, where he eſtabliſhed his headquarters; from thence he proſecuted his route to Derby; but he determined once more to retreat to Scotland. He effected his retreat to Carliſle without any loſs, and, having reinforced

The Death of General Wolfe.

forced the garriſon of the place, croſſed the rivers Eden and Solway into Scotland.

After many attacks and ſkirmiſhes, the duke of Cumberland put himſelf at the head of the troops at Edinburgh, which conſiſted of about 14,000 men. He reſolved to come to a battle as ſoon as poſſible, and marched forward, while the young adventurer retired at his approach. The duke advanced to Aberdeen, where he was joined by the duke of Gordon, and ſome other lords. The Highlanders were drawn up in order of battle, on the plain of Culloden, to the number of 8000 men. The duke marched thither, and the battle began about one o'clock in the afternoon, April 16. In leſs than thirty minutes, the rebels were totally routed, and the field covered with their dead bodies. The duke, immediately after the battle, ordered thirty-ſix deſerters to be executed. At length, a general peace was proclaimed in London, on February 2, 1749.

On the 7th of May, 1756, his Britannic Majeſty declared war againſt France, and ſent admiral Byng, with a ſtrong fleet, to the relief of Minorca; but he neglecting to fufill his inſtructions, the place was loſt, and he was tried and ſhot at Portſmouth. During theſe tranſactions, Mr. Clive, one of the clerks of the Eaſt India Company, diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the Eaſt Indies, obtaining the rank of colonel, and had ſuch amazing ſucceſs, that all the towns and factories of the French on the coaſt of

of Coromandel, except Pondicherry, were, in a few years, taken by the Engliſh. On the other hand, in 1758, the duke of Marlborough landed near St. Maloes in France, burnt many ſhips, with a great quantity of naval ſtores. Lieutenant-general Bligh and Captain Howe took Cherbourg, and demoliſhed the fortifications. Soon after, captain Marſh took Senegal, and Commodore Keppel the iſland of Goree, on the coaſt of Africa. On the 26th of July, Cape Breton was retaken by general Amherſt and admiral Boſcawen. Soon after, fort Frontenac ſurrendered to lieutenant-general Bradſtreet, and fort Du Queſne to general Forbes. On the 1ſt of May, 1759, the Iſland of Guadaloupe ſurrendered to the Engliſh, In the ſame month, Marigalante, Santos, and Deſeada, became ſubject to Great Britain.

On Auguſt 1, was fought the glorious battle of Minden, in which about 7000 Engliſh defeated 80,000 of the French regular troops.

The command of the expedition againſt Quebec, the capital of the French Canada, was given to general Wolfe, a young officer of a true military genius. Wolfe's courage and perſeverance ſurmounted incredible difficulties; he gained the heights of Abraham, near Quebec, where he fought and defeated the French army, but he was himſelf killed. General Amherſt, who was the firſt Engliſh general on command in America, conducted another expedition; and Canada ſhortly became ſubject to Great-Britain.

The

The affairs of the French being now deſperate, and their credit ruined, they reſolved upon an attempt to retrieve all by an invaſion of Great Britain: but, on the 18th of Auguſt, 1759, admiral Boſcawen attacked the Toulon ſquadron, commanded by M. de la Clue, near the Streights of Gibraltar, took three ſhips, and burnt two.

On the 20th of November, Sir Edw. Hawke defeated the Breſt fleet, commanded by admiral Conflans, off the iſland of Dumet, in the bay of Biſcay. After this engagement, the French gave over all thoughts of their intended invaſion of Great Britain.

In February, 1760, captain Thurot, a French marine adventurer, who with three ſloops of war had alarmed the coaſts of Scotland, and actually made a deſcent at Carrickfergus, in Ireland, was, on his return from thence, met, defeated, and killed, by captain Elliot, who was the commodore of three ſhips inferior in force to the Frenchman's ſquadron.

On the 26th of October, 1760, George II. died ſuddenly, full of years and glory, in the 77th year of his age, and the 33d of his reign. He was interred on the 10th of November, at Weſtminſter.

George II. was, in his perſon, rather lower than the middle ſize, well ſhaped, erect, with eyes remarkably prominent, a high noſe, and fair complexion. In his diſpoſition, he is ſaid to have been haſty, prone to anger, eſpecially in his youth, yet ſoon appeaſed; otherwiſe

mild, moderate, and humane; in his way of living, temperate, and regular. He was fond of military pomp and parade, and perſonally brave. He loved war as a ſoldier; he ſtudied it as a ſcience, and correſponded on the ſubject with ſome of the greateſt officers whom Germany had produced. The circumſtances that chiefly mark his public character were a predilection for his native country, and a cloſe attention to the political intereſts of the Germanic body.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1738. Weſtminſter-bridge was begun this year, and finiſhed in 1750.

1753. The Britiſh Muſeum eſtabliſhed.

1755. Liſbon deſtroyed by an earthquake.

1756. 123 Engliſhmen periſhed in the black hole at Calcutta.

1760. Black-friars-bridge was begun this year, and finiſhed in 1770.

1738
1809
..71

GEORGE III. the preſent KING.

GEORGE III. the eldeſt ſon of Frederick prince of Wales, was born on the 4th of June, 1738, and proclaimed king of Great Britain on the 26th of October, 1760. The brighter the national glory was at the time of George the Second's death, the more arduous was the province of his ſucceſſor, George the

the Third. He choſe for his firſt miniſter the earl of Bute, whom he had known ever ſince he began to know himſelf; and among the firſt acts of his reign was to convince the public, that the death of his predeceſſo ſhould not relax the operations of the war. Accordingly, in 1761, the iſland of Belleiſle, on the coaſt of France, ſurrendered to his majeſty's ſhips and forces under commodore Keppel and general Hodgſon; as did the important fortreſs of Pondicherry, in the Eaſt Indies, to general Coote and admiral Stevens. The operations againſt the French Weſt Indies ſtill continued, under general Monckton, lord Rollo, and Sir James Douglas; and, in 1762, the iſland of Martinico, hitherto deemed impregnable, with the iſlands of Grenada, Grenadillas, St. Vincent, and others of leſs note, were ſubdued by the Britiſh arms, with inconceivable rapidity. By this time, the famous family compact among all the branches of the Bourbon family had been concluded; and it was found neceſſary to declare war againſt Spain, who, having been hitherto no principal in the quarrel, had ſcandalouſly abuſed their neutrality in favour of the French. A reſpectable armament was fitted out under admiral Pocock, having the earl of Albemarle on board to command the land forces; and the vitals of the Spaniſh monarchy were ſtruck at by the reduction of the Havannah, the ſtrongeſt and moſt important fort which his catholic majeſty held in the Weſt Indies. The capture

of the Hermione, a large Spaniſh regiſter-ſhip, bound from Lima to Cadiz, the cargo of which was valued at a million ſterling, preceded the birth of the prince of Wales, and the treaſure paſſed in triumph through Weſtminſter to the Bank, the very hour he was born. The loſs of the Havannah, with the ſhips and treaſures there taken from the Spaniards, was ſucceeded by the reduction of Manilla, in the Eaſt Indies, by General Draper and admiral Corniſh. with the capture of the Trinidad, reckoned worth three millions of dollars. To counteract thoſe dreadful blows given to the family compact the French and Spaniards opened their laſt reſource, which was to quarrel with, and invade Portugal, which had been always under the peculiar protection of the Britiſh arms. Whether this quarrel was real or pretended, is not for us to determine. It certainly embarraſſed his Britannic majeſty, who was obliged to ſend thither armaments both by ſea and land; but theſe found no great difficulty in checking the progreſs of the Spaniards. The enemy, at laſt, granted ſuch terms as the Britiſh miniſtry thought admiſſible, and adequate to the occaſion. A ceſſation of arms took place in Germany, and in all other quarters; and, on the 10th of February, 1763, the definitive treaty of peace between his Britannic majeſty, the king of France, and the king of Spain, was concluded at Paris, and acceded to by the king of Portugal. On March 10, the ratifications were exchanged at Paris; on the 22d, the

the peace was ſolemnly proclaimed at the uſual places in Weſtminſter and London; and the treaty having, on the 18th, been laid before the parliament, it met with the approbation of a majority of both houſes.

Never was the fortune of any nation higher than that of the Engliſh at this period. Beſides our rich poſſeſſions in the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, or thoſe on the coaſt of Africa, all enlarged by a ſeries of the moſt extraordinary ſucceſs, and confirmed by a perpetual treaty, without including Hudſon's Bay, Newfoundland, or the other iſlands of North America, we were maſters of all that vaſt continent which ſtretches from the mouth of the river St. Lawrence to that of the Miſſiſſippi, and from the Atlantic ocean to the ſouth ſea; the moſt extenſive empire that ever was formed on the face of the earth. Nor was this a barren and unprofitable territory, as the greater part of it was either cultivated or ſuſceptible of improvement; and it offered to the mother country, in conjunction with her other conqueſts and ſettlements, the largeſt field that ever was opened to the commerce and induſtry of any people. But the time was ſuddenly to arrive, when that commerce was to be interrupted, that induſtry deprived of its enlivening principle, and the greater part of the empire violently torn from the parent ſtate, by a ſyſtem of politics the moſt irrational and diſgraceful that ever tarniſhed the page of hiſtory. In what manner theſe events gradually took place, will be the ſubject

of the remaining pages; but we ſhall firſt take a curſory view of what was tranſacting at this time in the eaſtern parts of the world, as well as of what paſſed at home.

In the Eaſt Indies, in 1764, the nabob, ſet up by lord Clive, was depoſed; and, the factory not agreeing with the nabob's ſucceſſor, 4000 of the garriſon and inhabitants of Patna were put to the ſword, and the town plundered, beſides ſeveral of the Engliſh being ſurprized and cut to pieces. Upon theſe, and other acts of hoſtility, war was declared againſt the nabob, Coſſim Ali Cawn; and the former nabob, Meer Jaffier, was ſoon reſtored, who thereupon entered into a more advantageous treaty with the company. Soon after, an action happened, in which the Engliſh were victorious. After this ſucceſs, the city of Moorſhedabad became an eaſy conqueſt; and, not long after, the reſtored nabob, Meer Jaffier, was proclaimed. In the mean time, the French took poſſeſſion of Turk's Iſland, and of nine ſail of Engliſh ſhips; they then deſtroyed every houſe, and ſecured all the ſlaves they could find. Major Adams, however, the Engliſh commander, again routed the enemy, and carried Rajamoul by aſſault, when Patna ſoon ſurrendered.

In 1766, peace was eſtabliſhed in the Eaſt Indies by lord Clive, who returned the following year; but a new enemy now ſtarted up. Hyder Ally, who, from a common ſoldier had become a prince of a large tract of territory on the Malabar coaſt, in confederacy with the viceroy

viceroy of the Decan, declared war againſt the Engliſh. The council of Madras ſent a body of troops under colonel Smith, who obtained a complete victory over them, when the viceroy immediately made peace with the Engliſh. Hyder Ally took refuge among the mountains, from whence he made frequent incurſions. In 1768, a ſmall fleet forced into Mangalore, one of Hyder's principal ſea-ports, and carried off his fleet. This war continued till the next year, when peace was propoſed to Hyder, and accepted. Having thus finiſhed the affairs of the Eaſt, I ſhall return to the tranſactions at home.

During the adminiſtration of Mr. Grenville, in 1765, bills paſſed for laying a ſtamp-duty on the Britiſh colonies in America, which firſt laid the foundation of thoſe quarrels between the colonies and the mother country, which ended in a total ſeparation. This meaſure was no ſooner known in America, than inſurrections commenced there, and great murmurings at home. In conſequence of which, the miniſtry retired, and the act was repealed.

In the courſe of this year, the ſovereignty of the Iſle of Man was annexed to the crown of England; and this year, on account of the ſeizure of Mr. Wilkes's papers, general warrants granted by ſecretaries of ſtate, except in caſes of high treaſon, were declared to be illegal and oppreſſive.

The next year, ſeveral changes in the miniſtry took place: the duke of Grafton was appointed

pointed the firſt lord of the treaſury in July; and Mr. Pitt, who had been created earl of Chatham, was made lord privy ſeal; but lord North was placed at the head of adminiſtration ſoon after.

Mr. Wilkes, who had long reſided abroad, returned in 1768, and offered himſelf as a candidate to repreſent the city of London, though a ſentence of outlawry againſt him had never been repealed. He loſt his election; but immediately ſtood for Middleſex, where he was choſen by a great majority. He ſoon after ſurrendered himſelf, and was committed to the King's Bench priſon. In conſequence of which, ſeveral riots happened in St. George's fields, and ſome perſons were killed. The miniſtry determined to perſecute Mr. Wilkes, who was accordingly expelled the houſe of commons, fined a thouſand pounds, and impriſoned two and twenty months, for publiſhing No. 45, of the North Britain, the Eſſay on Woman, and ſome other papers. This ſeverity only encreaſed Mr. Wilkes's popularity, who was ſeveral times elected for Middleſex, till it was reſolved, that Mr. Luttrell, who had oppoſed him, but had not one third as many votes, ought to have been returned. Petitions were preſented from various quarters, complaining that the rights of election were infringed, and a general diſcontent prevailed.

Mr. Wilkes's impriſonment expired in 1771, when he was choſen one of the ſheriffs for London and Middleſex, made an alderman, had

had his debts paid, amounting to twenty or thirty thouſand pounds, was elected lord mayor, and afterwards chamberlain of London. The ſame year, 1771, ſeveral printers were ordered to attend the Houſe of Commons: but one of them refuſed, and carried the meſſenger before the Lord Mayor. Aldermen Wilkes and Oliver happened to be preſent; and, finding that the ſpeaker's warrant was not backed by a city magiſtrate, they would have committed the meſſenger to priſon, if he had not procured bail. On this, the Houſe committed the Lord Mayor and Alderman Oliver to the Tower, but avoided meddling with Mr. Wilkes.

While matters were in this ſituation at home, they were getting much worſe in America, where the joy which the repeal of the ſtamp-act had occaſioned was of ſhort duration. New duties were laid on paper, glaſs, tea, and other articles; but, as a general combination ſeemed forming not to take any of thoſe commodities from the mother country, the acts were repealed, except the duties on tea. Laws were alſo paſſed, which gave great umbrage, for quartering troops in America, for ſuſpending the legiſlative power at New York, and for appointing governors in the colonies, who were to be paid by the crown. Some veſſels laden with tea attempted to land in America; but at Boſton and South Carolina the teas were thrown into the ſea, and from other places the ſhips returned with their cargoes

goes untouched. Theſe proceedings enraged the government of England, who paſſed acts for ſhutting up the port of Boſton, for altering the conſtitution of Maſſachuſetts Bay and Quebec, ſo that the magiſtrates might be appointed by the king of England.

In this ſituation of affairs, the Americans entered into agreement not to trade with Great Britain till theſe acts were repealed. At the ſame time, the delegates appointed from the Engliſh colonies avowed their loyalty to his majeſty, but ſupplicated him to order a change of meaſures. This petition of the congreſs was rejected, and application of their agents to be heard at the bar of the Houſe of Commons was refuſed, and finally, a bill of the Earl of Chatham's, to accommodate the troubles of America, was rejected in the Houſe of Lords.

The Americans, finding themſelves thus treated, began to train their militia with great induſtry. They erected powder-mills in Philadelphia and Virginia, and began to prepare arms in all the provinces; nor were theſe preparations fruitleſs, as will evidently appear from what followed. On the 19th of April, 1775, general Gage detached a party to ſeize ſome military ſtores at Concord, in New England. Several ſkirmiſhes enſued, many were killed on both ſides, and the troops would probably have been all cut off, if a freſh body had not arrived to their relief. Arms were now taken up in every quarter, and they

they aſſumed the title of, *The United Colonies of America.* The firſt reſolutions were for raiſing an army, for eſtabliſhing an extenſive paper currency, and for ſtopping all exportations to thoſe places which ſtill retained their obedience. About 240 provincials next took the garriſon of Ticonderago and Crown-point, without any loſs of men; and here they found plenty of military ſtores. Great Britain encreaſed her army, and ſent over the generals Howe, Burgoyne, and Clinton.

Theſe inimical proceedings did not terrify the congreſs, who encouraged the people of Maſſachuſetts Bay to reſume their chartered rights, ordered the blockade of Boſton to be diſcontinued; and, that they might ſecure Charles-town, in one night they raiſed very conſiderable works on Bunker's hill. As ſoon as they were diſcovered in the morning, a heavy fire enſued from the ſhips, the floating batteries, and from Cop's-hill in Boſton. This they ſuſtained, and were with difficulty driven from their intrenchments in the evening by a large party, under the conduct of the generals Howe and Pigot. The conteſt was ſevere, Charles-town was burned, 226 of the Engliſh officers and men were killed. The Americans then threw up works on the other ſide of Charles-town neck; ſo that the troops were as cloſely inveſted as they had been at Boſton.

George Waſhington, Eſq. was, about this time, appointed to the command of the American army; the congreſs publiſhed ſpirited memorials

memorials of their reaſons for taking up arms, and offered a ſecond fruitleſs petition to the king. Their generals were then ordered to endeavour to ſubjugate thoſe colonies that eſpouſed the cauſe of Great Britain. Two parties were ſent againſt Canada, under general Montgomery and Colonel B. Arnold, who boldly undertook to march, by an untried route, from Boſton to Quebec. After innumerable difficulties, they reached the town, which they firſt attempted to take by ſtorm, and then to block up. In this attempt, Montgomery fell, and Arnold, who was dangerouſly wounded, was forced to make a haſty retreat. In the mean time, general Carleton, the governor of Canada, received freſh ſupplies from England.

In 1776, Boſton was bombarded and evacuated, when general Waſhington took poſſeſſion of it, and general Howe removed his troops to Halifax. While the breach was thus widening in America, ſeveral members of the Britiſh ſenate were at home endeavouring to bring matters to a reconciliation; but it was not the diſpoſition of the reigning miniſtry to give up any thing that they apprehended could promote their wild and chimerical ſchemes of power and ambition.

In July, a fruitleſs attack was made upon Charles-town, in which the Engliſh ſuffered conſiderably. About this time, general Howe landed, drove the Americans out of Long iſland, who abandoned New York to the Britiſh

tish forces. Offers of reconciliation were now made by Howe, and rejected. Sir Peter Parker and general Clinton took Rhode Iſland, and the Engliſh alſo made ſome incurſions into the Jerſeys. General Waſhington ſoon after ſurpriſed and took priſoners above 900 of the Heſſian troops in our ſervice, with ſeveral ſtands of arms. Privateers were alſo fitted out from England and America, who continually made prizes of each other, and matters were carried on with great animoſity on both ſides.

The next year, 1777, there were two actions between the generals Howe and Waſhington, and Philadelphia ſurrendered to the king's troops. A plan was now formed for invading the revolted colonies by way of Canada, and general Burgoyne undertook the expedition; but after many difficulties, and ſome deſperate actions, this army was obliged to ſurrender themſelves priſoners of war to Gates and Arnold. Our expedition up the North river was more ſucceſsful, under Clinton and Vaughan; the former of whom, ſoon after, ſucceeded general Howe as commander in chief, and after evacuating Philadelphia, he retreated with his army to New York.

In 1778, the French entered into an alliance with the Thirteen United Colonies; and as affairs wore ſo gloomy an aſpect, the earl of Carliſle, William Eden, and George Johnſtone, Eſqrs. were ſent as Commiſſioners to treat of peace; but the hour was paſt, and the terms were rejected with diſdain. The war was then car-

ried on with mutual animoſity, and the whole of Georgia was reduced by the Britiſh forces. Hoſtilities next commenced with France; and the Engliſh admiral Keppel engaged the French fleet under Count D'Orvilliers. Not a ſhip was taken on either ſide; and, upon ſome cenſure being paſſed on vice admiral Sir Hugh Palliſer's conduct, he applied to Keppel for redreſs, which was denied. He then exhibited articles of accuſation againſt Keppel, who was tried, and honourably acquitted; Palliſer was next tried, and acquitted; and there the farce ended.

In the mean time, Sir Edward Vernon, in the Eaſt Indies, drove off the French under De Tronjolly; and, ſoon after, Pondicherry ſurrendered to the arms of England, as did St. Lucia in the Weſt Indies. Dominica, St. Vincent, and Grenada, however, were taken by the French, who, in 1779, aſſiſted the Americans with a fleet, under Count D'Eſtaing. But general Prevoſt repulſed the Americans and their allies at Savannah, and the latter were ſoon obliged to abandon the enterprize. In this year, the French made an unſucceſsful attempt on the iſland of Jerſey; and ſome time after, Sir Hyde Parker took ſeveral of their ſhips. Spain now joined France againſt us, took New Orleans on the Miſſiſſippi, and laid ſiege to Gibraltar with great ardour. The combined fleet of France and Spain rode triumphant in the channel, but ſeparated without effecting any thing.

Sir G. B. Rodney, in the beginning of 1780, with

with a large fleet, captured ſeven ſhips, and, a few days afterwards, captured five Spaniſh ſhips of the line; one was loſt by being driven on ſhore, and another was blown up. In April and May, the ſame admiral, after throwing ſupplies into Gibraltar, had three undeciſive engagements with the French fleet, in the Weſt Indies, where ſeveral of our ſhips ſuffered dreadfully in a hurricane, and ſome were loſt. In July, admiral Geary took twelve French merchant ſhips; but the combined fleet, in Auguſt, took five Engliſh Eaſt Indiamen, and fifty merchant ſhips bound for the Weſt Indies.

In America, general Clinton took poſſeſſion of Charles-town; earl Cornwallis obtained a victory over general Gates, and colonel Tarleton acquired fame, by his conduct in ſeveral ſkirmiſhes. In July, a fleet, and a large body of troops from France, arrived at Rhode Iſland.

This year was remarkable for one of the moſt dreadful riots that ever happened in the city and ſuburbs of London. A proteſtant aſſociation of Calviniſts and Methodiſts, with lord George Gordon at their head, while the nation was involved in real danger, alarmed themſelves with fancied apprehenſions of popery, and determined to excite the legiſlature to repeal an act they had juſt paſſed in favour of the catholics. A petition was ſigned by above 100,000 perſons, which was preſented to the Houſe of Commons on the 2d of June. They proceeded to the Houſe in great order, and their preſident gave in the petition; but, in

the courſe of the day, ſeveral lords and commoners were inſulted by the mob, who pulled down the Sardinian and other Romiſh chapels, when the military were ſent for, who carried five of the rioters to Newgate. Every thing remained quiet on the king's birth-day, which was kept on Saturday inſtead of Sunday, on which day another Popiſh chapel was demoliſhed. On Monday, the 5th, a Popiſh ſchool, three prieſts houſes, a library, and all Sir George Saville's furniture, were deſtroyed. On Tueſday, the mob was ſo riotous before both houſes of parliament, that they obliged them to adjourn; and, in the evening, when the keeper of Newgate refuſed to deliver up the rioters, they ſet fire to his houſe and the priſon, and let out about 300 priſoners, many of whom joined them. They then proceeded to the Bank, which they would have plundered, had it not been protected by the military, and city aſſociation. In the evening, lord Mansfield's, Mr. Langdale's houſe and diſtillery, and Sir John Fielding's, were burnt, and ſeveral private perſons had their houſes pulled down. On the next day, the King's Bench priſon, the New Bridewell, the Fleet priſon, ſome Popiſh chapels, and ſeveral Papiſts houſes, were deſtroyed. Fires were ſeen blazing in every part of the capital, and the lawleſs mob were exacting contributions from the citizens, while the magiſtrates, and even the miniſtry, viewed theſe ſcenes of deſolation with an inactivity that is aſtoniſhing. At length, however, their

their courage ſeemed rouſed, troops were called into London from all quarters, and were ſtationed in every part of the town. This ſtep effectually checked the progreſs of the rioters, a great number of whom were ſhot by the military, and others taken, tried, and executed. Lord George Gordon was alſo tried, but acquitted.

During theſe diſturbances, a rupture was expected with the Dutch, who had, for ſome time paſt, privately aſſiſted the Americans. In January, commodore Fielding took ſeveral ſhips with naval ſtores on board, which were under convoy of the Dutch admiral; and, in September, Mr. Keppel captured a congreſs packet boat, on board of which was Mr. Lawrens, late preſident of the congreſs, among whoſe papers was found the plan of a treaty between America and Holland. Mr. Lawrens, was committed to the Tower, and freſh applications were made to the States General; but, as no ſatisfactory anſwer could be obtained, hoſtilities were declared by the Engliſh, on Dec. 20, 1780.

In September, this year, the Reſolution and Diſcovery returned from a voyage round the world; but neither of their commanders, the captains Cook and Clerk, returned with them. The former was killed in an affray with the natives of Owhyhee, a newly diſcovered iſland, on the 14th of Feb. 1779, and the latter died ſoon after of a conſumption. Theſe ſhips reached England without ſuffering from our enemies, as the belligerent powers had iſſued or-

ders not to moleſt theſe veſſels, the purſuit in which they were engaged being conſidered of great and univerſal utility.

In 1781, intelligence was brought to England, that our ſhipping had ſuffered conſiderably, by ſeveral hurricanes in the Leeward Iſlands, which did incredible damage at land and ſea. The war with Holland began vigorouſly. Admiral Rodney and general Vaughan took the iſlands of St. Euſtatius, St. Martin, Seba, and St. Bartholomew, with a Dutch flag ſhip of 60 guns, a frigate of 38, and above 200 ſmaller veſſels. However, we did not long enjoy the former part of this victory; for, before the cloſe of the year, St. Euſtatius, by ſome unaccountable miſconduct, perhaps treachery, was taken by the French. To admiral Rodney the Dutch colonies of Demarara and Iſſequibo alſo ſurrendered. Commodore Johnſtone took four Dutch Eaſt Indiamen in the bay of Saldanha, where a fifth was burned; and admiral H. Parker had a very ſevere engagement with the Dutch fleet off the Dogger Bank. One of the enemy's ſhips ſunk in the night, but none were taken.

Our army in America ſtill continued their operations with different ſucceſs. Fort Anne and Fort George ſurrendered to general Carleton. Great expectations were now formed from the diſcontent of ſome rebel troops, and the Pennſylvania line; but all attempts on our part, to induce them to join the royal army, proved fruitleſs. Admiral Arbuthnot engaged

ed the French fleet in America, and aſſiſted the generals Phipps and Arnold in ravaging Virginia. Skirmiſhes were frequent; but earl Cornwallis, by rapid marches, prevented the junction of the rebel armies. On the other hand, a party under colonel Tarleton ſuffered much in an engagement with general Morgan. In the mean time, Wilmington ſurrendered to the royal arms, and ſome batteries were deſtroyed. Earl Cornwallis gained a victory over general Green, near Guildford, in North Carolina; and a ſecond engagement with lord Rawdon followed. However, the day was now haſtily arriving, in which Britain was to give up all hopes of ever conquering America; for ſoon after, De Graſſe reached the Cheſapeak; and, before admiral Graves could attack him, general Waſhington, with his aſſiſtance, ſurrounded earl Cornwallis's army, who were obliged to ſurrender priſoners of war to the combined forces of France and America.

About the ſame time, the Spaniards made themſelves maſters of Penſacola, and the whole of Weſt Florida. They alſo puſhed the ſiege of Gibraltar with great ſpirit: but a party of our troops made a ſally from the fortreſs, and deſtroyed all their works, which were nearly completed.

The French diſpatched their fleets to attempt diſtreſſing us in every quarter. They attacked Jerſey; and the lieutenant-governor Corbett was tried and ſuſpended for his ſtrange neglect of duty. M. de la Motte Piquett captured part

of

of the St. Euſtatia fleet; and another ſquadron attacked governor Johnſtone, off St. Jago, when the action was ſevere, and the ſhips on both ſides were much damaged. The French alſo landed at St. Lucia; but, without being able to accompliſh any thing there, they quitted it, and proceeded to Tobago, which they obliged to capitulate.

In the Eaſt Indies, ſoon after Sir Hector Monro had taken the field, a party under colonel Bailley, attempting to join him, was either cut to pieces or taken by Hyder Ally, who took Arcot by aſſault, and obliged the fort to capitulate. The command of the company's troops was ſoon after given to Sir Eyre Coote, who obtained a complete victory over Ally, between Porto Novo and Mooteapallam. Some of Ally's ſhips alſo were burned on the Malabar coaſt by Sir Edward Hughes. Bafan ſoon after ſurrendered; and colonel Carnac engaged and conquered Mhadage Scindia. The French then left the Coromandel coaſt, without aſſiſting Hyder Ally, who quitted the Carnatic.

Admiral Rodney and general Vaughan made an unſucceſsful attempt againſt St. Vincent's; but admiral Kempenfelt was more fortunate in taking ſeveral tranſports, which were under convoy of the French fleet, commanded by M. de Guichen.

In the mean time, every action of the miniſtry at home was narrowly ſcrutinized by the minority, who were led by the hon. Mr. Fox and Mr. Burke. In the Houſe of Peers, the

encreaſe

encreaſe of popery, and the commutation of tythes, were canvaſſed. In the Houſe of Commons, bills were brought in for regulating his majeſty's civil eſtabliſhment, for limiting the juriſdiction of the ſupreme court of Calcutta, and for other important purpoſes.

In 1782, after the ſurrender of earl Cornwallis, our affairs in America ſeemed deſperate, and every one ſeemed deſirous of bringing it to a concluſion, except thoſe whoſe tyranny, ambition, and ignorance, had been the cauſe of it. Sir James Lowther (now earl of Lonſdale) therefore moved, in the Houſe of Commons, that all further attempts to reduce the Americans by force would be injurious to the true intereſts of Great Britain. After a long and vigorous debate, the motion was rejected. The mode of exchanging priſoners was next canvaſſed; and Mr. Lawrens was ordered to be releaſed from the Tower. A motion was next made for addreſſing his majeſty to put a ſtop to the American war; and the motion was loſt by one vote only. A ſecond motion was then made, and agreed to. Addreſſes were preſented to the king, a complete change in adminiſtration followed, and the negociations for a general peace commenced. The independency of America was allowed. Some little ſkirmiſhes, however, took place: and the refugees in Britiſh pay, after taking a fort on Tom's river, hanged the commander of it, to revenge ſome cruelties with which he was charged. This violently enraged

raged the Americans, and general Waſhington demanded the officer who had condemned him as a murderer. This was refuſed; on which capt. Aſgill, of the guards, was by lot ordered into confinement, and doomed to ſuffer in his ſtead. However, after a moſt painful ſuſpenſe he was releaſed. His mother, lady Aſgill, applied to the French miniſter, Count de Vergennes, whoſe interceſſion with gen. Waſhington, ſtrengthened by the generous interference of the queen of France, procured life and liberty to the unfortunate victim.

Sir Guy Carleton afterwards ſucceeded Sir Henry Clinton in the command. He immediately acquainted General Waſhington, that admiral Digby and himſelf were empowered to treat of peace with the people of America. After ſome little jealouſies and negociations, after the king's troops had evacuated Savannah, the province of Georgia, and Charles-town, the proviſional articles were ſigned at Paris, on the 30th of November. Thus terminated this inglorious war, in which ſo many valuable lives had been loſt, and ſo many millions of money had been ſquandered away, to gratify the wild and ruinous ambition of a few, and to the emolument of many jobbers and contractors, who now baſk in the ſun-ſhine of affluence, at the expence of the ruin of their country.

While matters were thus drawing to a criſis at home, let us ſee what was tranſacting abroad. In the Eaſt Indies, our ſucceſſes were great.

By

By the defeat of Hyder Ally, Tanjour and Trinchinopoly were delivered from his depredations. Intelligence arrived, that General Coote had laid ſiege to Tripaſſore, and gained a ſecond complete victory over his army. Sir Hector Monro, aſſiſted by Sir Edward Hughes, poſſeſſed themſelves of the Dutch ſettlement of Negapatam and Fort Oſtenburgh. Hyder's troops now evacuated all their poſts in the Tanjore, and ſeveral petty princes, who had revolted, returned to their obedience. Sir Edward Hughes next took Trincomale in the iſland of Ceylon, with two Dutch ſhips, and ſeveral ſmall veſſels. Major Abington relieved Tellicherry, which Hyder had beſieged, and routed the enemy, taking from them 1500 priſoners, military ſtores, and treaſure to a great amount. The French, however, with Hyder's ſon, Tippoo Saib, defeated the company's troops ſoon after, and either captured or deſtroyed the whole detachment. Cuddalore alſo capitulated to the French. Hoſtilities afterwards ceaſed between the Mahrattas and the company's forces; but M. Suffrein, with the French fleet, coming to the aſſiſtance of Hyder, he took Permacoli. Several engagements followed between admiral Hughes and Suffrein, ſome of which were deſperate, but none deciſive.

Though we took a vaſt number of prizes from the French, yet they made themſelves maſters of Minorca, as they did of Nevis and St. Chriſtopher in the Weſt Indies; and Demarara

and

and Iſſequibo ſoon ſhared the ſame fate. Soon after, admiral Rodney had a partial engagement with Count de Graſſe, who retired to Guadaloupe to refit; but, not long after, the two fleets met, and a general engagement commenced, which laſted twelve hours, when four French ſhips were taken, and one ſunk; a fifth was taken, but blew up. Admiral Hood captured four, and admiral Barrington two ſhips of war, and ten ſail under their convoy. The Count de Graſſe was taken and brought to England; but moſt of the prizes, with ſome of our own ſhips, were loſt in their paſſage to England, in a moſt violent ſtorm.

The Spaniards took from us the Bahama iſlands, and continued the ſiege of Gibraltar with a vigorous perſeverance; but all their efforts were rendered ineffectual bythe bravery and conduct of general Elliott. He again permitted them almoſt to complete their works, when he began ſuch a heavy fire of carcaſſes, hot ſhot, and ſhells, that ſeveral of their batteries were damaged, and ſome deſtroyed. The Engliſh alſo forced ſeven Spaniſh, and two French ſhips of the line, with ſeveral ſmaller ones, to retreat. Soon after, another attack was made by ten floating batteries, built by the Spaniards at an enormous expence; but by an inceſſant fire of red-hot balls from the beſieged, moſt of them were ſet in flames; when captain Curtis, with two Engliſh gun boats, advanced, and prevented their receiving any aſſiſtance from the Spaniſh fleet. The

humanity of captain Curtis ſaved 357 of the enemy. Great numbers, however, muſt have been killed and blown up. Freſh ſupplies were ſoon after thrown into Gibraltar by lord Howe, who had a partial engagement with the combined fleets, off the mouth of the Straits.

A complete change was now made in the miniſtry, at the head of which the marquis of Rockingham was placed; overtures for a general pacification were made, and ſome indulgences were granted to Ireland; ſome uſeleſs places were aboliſhed, and ſome fruitleſs attempts were made for a more equal repreſentation in parliament. On the death of the marquis of Rockingham, lord Shelburne (now marquis of Lanſdown) took the lead in adminiſtration, and ſeveral reſignations followed. This year, the Royal George, of 100 guns, was unfortunately overſet, when the brave admiral Kempenfelt, and near 600 other perſons, were drowned in her.

In 1783, the proviſional articles between England and America were made public. By theſe it appeared, that his Brittanic majeſty acknowledged the independence of the United States of New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts Bay, Rhode Iſland and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. He alſo relinquiſhed all claims to the government of them, and conſented to treat with thoſe people as free and independent ſtates, who, but a little time before,

were deſpiſed as unpardonable rebels. Their boundaries were alſo ſettled, and they were allowed the liberty of fiſhing, and drying fiſh as uſual. It was agreed, that the creditors on both ſides ſhould meet with no impediment in the proſecution of their claims. The reſtoration of confiſcated property was alſo *recommended*, and all priſoners were to be ſet at liberty. The Engliſh troops were to be immediately withdrawn from America, and a firm and perpetual peace was concluded between the contracting parties. In theſe articles, no proviſion was made for the American loyaliſts, the line of boundary was blamed as inaccurate, and the liberty of fiſhing was condemned as an inſtance of extravagant liberality. The definitive treaty was next ſigned; and thus finiſhed a buſineſs that will for ever diſgrace the annals of Great Britain.

In our treaty with the French, after ſettling the fiſheries, the iſlands of St. Pierre, St. Lucia, Tobago, and Goree, were ſurrendered to France, with the river Senegal, and its dependencies, and the forts of St. Louis and others. The iſlands of Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Kitt's, Nevis, and Montſerratt, were left to the Engliſh; and the iſlands which the Engliſh had taken from the French in the Eaſt Indies were reſtored; and the priſoners on both ſides were to be ſurrendered without ranſom.

With the Dutch, our negociations were not ſo eaſily ſettled. However, after much deli-

 beration,

beration, and ſeveral memorials, it was ſtipulated by treaty, that the king of Great Britain ſhould reſtore Trincomale, and all the poſſeſſions that had been taken during the war, to the Dutch; and that the ſtates general ſhould guarantee Negapatam, with its dependencies, to his Britannic majeſty; and that mutual conqueſts were to be given up without compenſation.

Our treaty with the Spaniards determined, that his Catholic majeſty ſhould maintain Minorca and Weſt Florida, and to have Eaſt Florida ceded to him; and that Spain ſhould ſurrender the iſland of Providence and the Bahamas to the Engliſh. All other conqueſts of territories were mutually to be reſtored without compenſation.

At home, the preliminary articles of peace were canvaſſed with great freedom in both houſes of parliament; but to enter into the various ſubjects of diſpute, or the merits of the diſputants, would far exceed the narrow limits of this work: we muſt therefore content ourſelves with only general remarks.

Some important motions were carried againſt the miniſtry in the houſe of commons; and, after various and ineffectual ſtruggles, the earl of Shelburne and his party reſigned, and the duke of Portland was placed at the head of the new adminiſtration, while Mr. Fox took the lead in the lower houſe. Mr. Pitt, the ſon of the great earl of Chatham, made a motion for a parliamentary reform, which

did not ſucceed. The next important event was a deciſion in the houſe of lords, by which bonds of reſignation reſpecting church-livings, were declared illegal by a deciſion of that houſe. This was followed by another unſucceſsful attempt to bring on a reform. Parliament conſented to a bill for the relief of the American loyaliſts; for ordering the eſtabliſhment of the prince of Wales; and for granting penſions to lord Rodney and general Eliott, for their important ſervices. Soon after, the parliament was prorogued; and, on the 6th of October, peace was proclaimed.

Soon after the meeting of parliament, in November, Mr. Fox brought forward his bill for the regulation of India. It was carried through the lower houſe by a great majority, but was rejected in the upper houſe. On the following night, Dec. 18, the miniſtry were ſuddenly diſmiſſed, and Mr. Pitt was announced firſt lord of the treaſury. This change was not expected to be permanent; and ſo ſtrong was Mr. Fox's party in the houſe of commons, that noblemen were at firſt afraid of accepting places of reſponſibility. Theſe apprehenſions were ſoon conquered; but ſtill the miniſter found himſelf in a minority. Several addreſſes were preſented by the oppoſition to his majeſty, and all public buſineſs ſeemed to ceaſe. The miniſtry, however, were determined, and refuſed to reſign. Attempts were made to form a coalition, but they proved unſucceſsful; and the parliament was diſſolved on the 24th of March,

March. The next parliament met on the 18th of May, 1784, when it was ſoon diſcovered, that there was a conſiderable majority on the ſide of the miniſter. When the election for Weſtminſter, in which Mr. Fox complained of the illegal proceedings of the high-bailiff, was diſcuſſed, the miniſter carried almoſt every motion; notwithſtanding which, Mr. Fox at laſt triumphed, and ſat as member for the city of Weſtminſter. The miniſter brought forward his taxes, and his India bill, all which paſſed, ſome of them without even a diviſion. Laws were alſo made for the prevention of ſmuggling, the ſupport of the public revenue, and for the reſtoration of the Scotch titles which had been forfeited in the rebellion. At length, after a long and buſy ſeſſion, the parliament was prorogued on the 10th of Auguſt.

The year 1785 was alſo a period of political contention. Mr. Pitt preſented to the houſe a ſtring of propoſitions, tending to ſettle the commerce of England and Ireland on a mutual and equitable footing. They met with great oppoſition in both houſes; and, though they with difficulty paſſed, they were ſo encreaſed and mutilated, as to retain hardly any thing of their original form. On being ſent over to Ireland, they met with great oppoſition in that kingdom, and were ſoon thrown out with contempt, both countries conſidering them as deſtructive to their own intereſts.

In 1787, the French party fomented great diſturbances in Holland, inſinuating that the ſtadtholder ſacrificed the intereſt of the republic to Engliſh politics; but the king of Pruſſia took ſo active a part in favour of the ſtadtholder, as totally to overturn the views of the French, who were in too diſtreſſed a ſituation to give the malcontents any aſſiſtance.

In 1788, the king of England was ſeized with a violent diſorder, and continued ill a long time with very little hopes of recovery.

In December, the parliament met, but could not proceed to buſineſs, as they conſiſted only of two branches of the legiſlature, the third, the king, being incapable of acting. The prince of Wales was propoſed as regent during the indiſpoſition of the king; but the power with which he was to be inveſted occaſioned very violent debates in both houſes.

This conteſt continued till March 10, 1789, when his majeſty ſent a meſſage to the houſe, to acquaint them with his ſudden recovery, and his ability to attend to the public buſineſs of the nation.

In the month of July, 1789, one of the moſt unexpected revolutions took place in France, that ever happened in the political hemiſphere of Europe, in which the intereſt and commerce of England are materially concerned. On that day, the French king was diveſted of all his abſolute authority, and reduced to one of the moſt limited monarchs in Europe. The Baſtile, that den of ſlavery and cruelty, was ſo effectu-

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ally demoliſhed by the populace, as literally not to leave one ſtone upon another. The national aſſembly, who were choſen by the people, took from the king the power of making war and peace, and aboliſhed all titles of peerages, it being their opinion, that no diſtinctions ſhould be known, but ſuch as ariſe from virtue, genius, and merit.

On the 14th of July, 1790, a ſolemn feſtival was held at Paris, when the French monarch made a formal ſurrender of the power, which is dangerous in the hands of any ſingle man. From this day, he was no longer to be conſidered as the abſolute tyrant, but as the father and ſervant of his people. On the above day, in the Field of Mars, he took a ſolemn oath to abide by the new conſtitution, as preſcribed by a decree of the national aſſembly. However, notwithſtanding the ſolemn oath the French monarch had taken, he ſoon afterwards endeavoured to make his eſcape to the German dominions, but he was ſtopped on the borders of Flanders, brought back to Paris, and cloſely guarded in one of the royal palaces. In the mean time, the national aſſembly drew up a new code of laws, which may be called the *Magna Charta* of France, and preſented them to the king to ſign, which he did on September 14, 1791, and apparently for a time allayed the tumults in that kingdom.

In the year 1787, Warren Haſtings, Eſq. late governor of the Engliſh ſettlements in the Eaſt

Eaſt Indies, was accuſed of high crimes and miſdemeanors during his government in the Eaſt. The matter was brought forward in the houſe of commons, by Mr. Burke, Mr. Sheridan, and ſome others, who impeached Mr. Haſtings, and brought him to trial in the houſe of lords.

A little previous to this period, ſome Engliſh merchants ſent a veſſel to Nootka, or King George's Sound, in the north-weſt part of America, to trade with the natives in furs, when the Spaniards ſeized the ſhip and veſſel, and treated the captain and his crew with great ſeverity. This produced complaints from the Britiſh court to that of Spain; but our remonſtrance being little attended to, both nations proceeded to make very powerful naval preparations; but the matter was at laſt patched up by a kind of treaty, which, by the generality of people, was conſidered as very vague and indeterminate.

This naval armament was hardly diſmiſſed, when a new object aroſe for collecting it together again. In the year 1788, the empreſs of Ruſſia, who wiſhed to obtain a port in the Black Sea, made very heavy claims on the Turks, and prevailed on the emperor of Germany to join in her views; but the war did no honour to the emperor, as the Turks cut ſome thouſands of his troops to pieces, and many more periſhed by fatigue, want, and diſeaſe.

The empreſs of Ruſſia, however, was more fortunate: ſhe defeated the Turks in every battle,

battle, and took from them ſeveral places, particularly the forts Ockzacow and Iſmael. Theſe ſucceſſes alarmed the Britiſh court, who fitted out a large fleet, in order to prevent Ruſſia's obtaining the navigation of the Black Sea; but the empreſs ſeemed to ridicule the preparations England was making, and inſiſted on maintaining the advantages ſhe had acquired. Negociations commenced; but the court of London, finding the empreſs was not to be intimidated, at laſt conſented to diſarm their navy, which had occaſioned the nation an enormous expence, and leave the Ruſſians in poſſeſſion of their conqueſts. In or about the month of Anguſt, 1791, the preliminaries of peace were ſigned between the Ruſſians and Turks, by which the empreſs obtained the free navigation of the Black Sea, with the full poſſeſſion of Ockzacow, and all its appendages, from the Neiſter to the Bog.

Remarkable Events in this Reign.

1763. Peace proclaimed between England, France, and Spain.

1764. Four thouſand of the garriſon and inhabitants of Patna, in the Eaſt Indies, put to the ſword.

1765. General warrants, except in caſes of high treaſon, declared illegal.

1768. Mr. Wilkes, though an outlaw, carried his election for Middleſex.

The

The ſame year, Mr. Wilkes was expelled the houſe of commons, and afterwards committed to the King's Bench priſon.

1771. The lord mayor of London, and alderman Oliver, committed to the Tower by the houſe of commons.

The ſame year, Mr. Wilkes was releaſed from his impriſonment, elected an alderman, and afterwards lord mayor of London.

1775. Hoſtilities commenced in the American colonies.

1778. Hoſtilities began between England, France, and Spain.

1780. Dreadful riots in London this year.

The ſame year hoſtilities were commenced againſt the Dutch.

1782. America acknowledged independent.

The ſame year general Elliott obliged the Spaniards to raiſe the ſiege of Gibraltar.

1783. A general peace concluded.

1789. The grand revolution in France.

1790. Naval armament againſt Spain.

1791. Naval armament againſt Ruſſia.

*** The author of this Epitome feeling, as he ought, the very liberal encouragement it has received from the public, was, for ſome time, undecided whether he ſhould, by enlarging it, give an hiſtorical detail of the very intereſting events that have occurred ſince the publication of the laſt edition.—Upon mature reflection, however, he was induced to decline it, and hopes his readers will be of opinion with

with him, that in the preſent unparalleled ſituation of affairs, hiſtory ſhould adopt a temporary ſilence.—In the next edition, rapidly as events occur, he truſts he ſhall be able to complete the plan, which, for the reaſons here ſtated, he now defers; contenting himſelf with merely relating, chronologically, as underneath, the moſt particular circumſtances of the period to which he alludes.

Marriage of the duke of York with the princeſs of Pruſſia, Sept. 29; remarried in England, Nov. 23.

Dreadful inſurrection of negroes in St. Domingo.

1792. The king of Sweden aſſaſſinated, March 16.

The houſe of commons voted that the ſlave trade ſhould be aboliſhed on Jan. 1, 1796.

A great law queſtion determined by the houſe of lords (contrary to the opinion of the judges) that in caſes of libel juries are judges of the *law* as well as of the *fact*.

Great riots at Birmingham.

The king of Poland compelled by the Ruſſians to reſtore the old conſtitution.

Lord Cornwallis made an advantageous peace with Tippoo Saib in the EaſtIndies, and received the two ſons of the tyrant as hoſtages.

Aug. 10. A dreadful engagement at the Thuilleries in Paris; the Swiſs guards vanquiſhed and maſſacred; the king and royal family compelled to take refuge in the national aſſembly.

The French king depoſed, and with his family impriſoned.

Sept. 2. A dreadful inſurrection at Paris, the priſons forced open, and all the ſtate priſoners, and confined prieſts, maſſacred.

1793. King of France tried, and executed Jan. 21.

French nation declared war againſt England and Holland Feb. 1.

Marat, the head of the reigning faction in Paris, aſſaſſinated by Madame Corde, July 14.

Crown revenue of Poland ſequeſtered by order of the Ruſſian Ambaſſador, July 17.

Valenciennes ſurrendered to the duke of York, July 28.

Toulon ſurrendered to Lord Hood; but afterwards evacuated.

French convention decree a new diviſion of the year.

A yellow fever, ſimilar to a plague, broke out at Philadelphia, attended with moſt dreadful conſequences.

The queen of France tried the 14th, and executed the 16th October.

Duke of Orleans, *alias* M. Egalité, executed at Paris, Nov. 6.

A number of perſons met at Edinburgh, and held a convention, ſimilar to that in France; ſeveral of theſe perſons (men of reſpectable ſituations in life) were afterwards tranſported to Botany Bay.

The famous counteſs du Barré, formerly miſtreſs of Louis XV. executed at Paris.

1794. A new Theatre opened on the ſcite of the old Drury-lane play-houſe, April 21.

St. Lucia taken from the French, April 2.

Guadaloupe ſurrrendered to the Britiſh forces, April 20.

Madame Elizabeth (of France) guillotined, May 10.

Horne Tooke and others committed to the Tower on a charge of high treaſon, May 20.

Lord Howe defeated the French grand fleet, took 6 ſail of the line, and ſunk 3, June 1.

The Corſicans acknowledge George III. as king of Corſica, and accept of a new conſtitution, June 21. Sir Gilbert Elliot was appointed viceroy.

A partial change of the miniſtry, by the admiſſion of the duke of Portland and ſome of his friends, July 11.

A dreadful fire near Ratcliffe-croſs, by which 600 houſes were conſumed, July 24. The loſs computed at 1,000,000l. ſterling.

Robeſpierre and his party overthrown at Paris, and himſelf with 20 others guillotined, July 28.

Great riots in London, which laſted ſeveral days, and were occaſioned by the practice of crimping, Aug. 15, &c.

The Poles defeated, and Koſciuſko taken priſoner by the Ruſſians, Oct. 10.

The trial of Hardy on a charge of high treaſon commenced at the Old Bailey, and laſted eight days: he was acquitted Oct. 28, &c.

Horne Tooke, tried and acquitted, Nov. 17. The trial laſted ſix days.

Treaty of Amity and commerce with America, Nov. 19.

A very ſevere froſt ſet in, Dec. 30.

1795. The ſtadtholder of Holland and his family flew for refuge to this country, landed at Yarmouth and Harwich, Jan. 21, and had apartments aſſigned to them in Hampton-court palace.

An embargo laid on Dutch ſhips and merchandize in the port of London to the value of 2,000,000l. ſterling, Jan. 25.

Treaty of defenſive alliance with Ruſſia, Feb. 18.

Richard Brothers, a pretended prophet, taken into cuſtody, and ſent to a mad-houſe, March 4.

The prince of Wales married to the princeſs Caroline of Brunſwick, April 8.

The trial of Warren Haſtings, eſq. at the bar of the houſe of lords, which commenced Feb. 12, 1788, cloſed April 14, the court having actually ſat 149 days, with intervals of long adjournments. Mr. Haſtings was acquitted.

Inſurrections of the poor in various parts on account of the dearneſs of bread, and of all kinds of proviſions. Bread was at one time ſo high as fifteen pence the quartern loaf.

Treaty of defenſive alliance with Auſtria, May 20.

A dreadful ſtorm of thunder and lightning, which

which did incalculable damage in town and country, June 4.

Trincomalee taken from the Dutch, Aug. 26.

Covent-garden church (built by Inigo Jones) deſtroyed by fire, Sept. 17.

The king violently aſſaulted in his ſtate coach on his way to the parliament houſe, Oct. 29.

A moſt dreadful hurricane, by which great miſchief was done all over the kingdom, Nov. 6.

1796. The princeſs of Wales delivered of a daughter, who was chriſtened Charlotta Auguſta, Jan. 7.

The king again aſſaulted in his carriage on his way to Covent-garden theatre, Feb. 1.

St. Lucia ſurrendered to Sir Ralph Abercrombie, May 25.

Captain Trollope, in the Glatton, of 54 guns, engaged and beat off a French ſquadron of 8 ſhips; viz. one of 50, two of 36, three of 28, one of 18, and one of 12, July 16.

Admiral Elphinſtone captured a large Dutch fleet under admiral Lucas, at the Cape of Good Hope, without firing a gun, Aug. 16.

The Dutch ſpice iſlands ſurrendered to the Engliſh.

General Waſhington reſigned the preſidency of America, Aug. 17, and was ſucceeded by Mr. Adams.

Spain declared war againſt England, Oct. 18.

The empreſs of Ruſſia died, and was ſuc-

ceeded by the grand duke Paul Petrowitz, Nov. 17.

Corſica evacuated by the Britiſh troops.

A loan of 18,000,000l. raiſed for government by voluntary ſubſcription, in 15 hours and 20 minutes, Dec. 5.

A formidable French fleet, with ſeveral thouſand troops on board, anchored in Bantry Bay, on the ſouthern coaſt of Ireland, Dec. 26.

Lord Malmſbury (ſent to negotiate a peace with France) arrived in London, Dec. 29, having been compelled to quit Paris in 24 hours.

1797. A dreadful earthquake in South America, whereby 40,000 lives were loſt, Feb. 10.

Admiral ſir John Jervis, with 15 ſail, defeated the Spaniſh fleet with 27 ſail of the line and 9 frigates, off Cape St. Vincent's, and took 4 ſhips of the line (2 of which were of 112 guns each) Feb. 14. He was, in conſequence, created Earl St. Vincent.

Trinidad taken, with 4 ſhips of war that were in the bay, Feb. 17.

Fourteen hundred French troops landed at Fiſhguard, in South Wales, and were all made priſoners, Feb. 22.

The Bank of England ordered by the privy council to ſtop the payment of caſh, on account of the great run upon it, Feb. 26.

The Bank iſſued ſmall notes of 1l. and 2l. each; alſo Spaniſh dollars ſtamped at 4s. 9d. each, March 4.

A general mutiny broke out on board the channel fleet at Spithead, April 15.

The admiralty agreed to comply with the demands of the ſeamen, April 20.

The livery of London, in common-hall, paſſed a vote of cenſure on his majeſty's miniſters for having adviſed the king to refuſe receiving their petition on the throne, May 11.

An alarming mutiny broke out on board the fleet at Sheerneſs, May 12.

Government determined to raiſe the pay of the military forces, May 14.

The princeſs royal of England married to the hereditary prince of Wirtemberg, May 18.

Ireland placed under martial law, May 20.

The mutineers at Sheerneſs blocked up the entrance of the Thames, hoiſted bloody flags, and compelled all the ſhips of war in the Medway and at the Nore to join the flag of revolt and defiance, May 27.

The mutiny ſpread into the ſquadron of admiral Duncan, moſt of whoſe ſhips left him and joined the mutineers at the Nore, May 31.

A proclamation publiſhed, declaring the ſhips at the Nore in a ſtate of rebellion, and prohibiting all intercourſe with them, June 7.

The mutiny terminated, and Parker, the leader, with his co-delegates, taken into cuſtody, June 14.

Parker executed, June 30.

Macklin, the comedian, died, aged 97, July 11.

A comet

A comet diſcovered by Mr. Walker, the aſtronomer, Aug. 18.

Dreadful riots at Tranent, and other parts of Scotland, in conſequence of the enforcement of the militia act, Aug. 28.

Lord Malmſbury returned from a ſecond miſſion to Paris on a pacific negotiation, in which he was again unſucceſsful, Sept. 18.

Admiral Duncan defeated the Dutch fleet, and captured the admiral, vice-admiral, and 9 ſhips of the line, for which he was created a viſcount, Oct. 11.

The French gave the name of the Army of England to the force prepared for invading this country, Nov. 3.

A new gold coinage of 7s. pieces iſſued at the Bank and declared current coin, Dec. 2.

The king, attended by the houſes of lords and commons, went in grand proceſſion to St. Paul's cathedral, to return thanks for the ſucceſs of the Britiſh arms at ſea, under lords Howe, St. Vincent, and Duncan, Dec. 19.

John Wilkes, eſq. alderman and chamberlain of London, died, Dec. 26.

1798. Staniſlaus Poniatowiki (the depoſed king of Poland) died at Peterſburg, Feb. 11.

The French entered Rome in triumph, Feb. 11.

FINIS.